■ Entertainment / A3-1

'Imelda: A New Musical' opens 6-week run in Los Angeles

■ Sports / A28

Tiger misses cut for first time in 7 years

■ World / A12

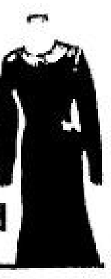
Pope Benedict XVI starts sainthood process for Pope John Paul II

■ Magazine

Hello, metrosexuals, this sleek magazine editor wants you

■ Lifestyle / D1

The Monique Lhuillier magic in exhibit of Cebu arts, crafts at New World



2 journalist-witnesses in Cebu get death threats

By Jolene Bulambot
PDI Visayas Bureau

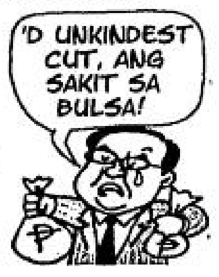
SET TO get married next week, Cebu Daily News (CDN) chief of reporters Suzzane Salva found the text message rather amusing: "*Blang Na Ang Araw Mo* [Your days are numbered]."

2 JOURNALIST-WITNESSES/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Fat cat gets pay cut, now down to P200T a month

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.


'D UNKINDEST CUT, ANG SAKIT SA BULSA!

THIS BIG shot has taken a hefty pay cut.

Heeding President Macapagal-Arroyo's order to government executives to practice austerity, Gov-

FAT CAT/ A8

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Sunday, May 15, 2005 ★★ 122 pages 16 sections Vol. 19 No. 156 P18

website: www.inq7.net

Jueteng lords use OFWs

Mayors to sue Isabela gov for 'jueteng' allegations

By Villamor Visaya Jr.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau
and Luige A. del Puerto

ILAGAN, Isabela—Isabela's mayors threatened to sue Gov. Maria Gracia Padaca for libel over her allegations of widespread "jueteng" in the province, and the Philippine National Police warned it would promptly sack officers tolerating the illegal numbers game.

Alicia Mayor Napoleon Dy, president of the Isabela Mayors League, said the mayors would file charges against Padaca to cleanse their image in the wake of her "unsubstantiated and malicious" accusations.

"The filing of libel [charges] is the best thing to do to at least protect our image because [her allegations] caused us dishonor and maligned our integrity," Dy told the INQUIRER in a phone interview yesterday.

Dy said he would meet with all the mayors in the province to discuss and finalize their action.

Padaca alleged at a news conference in Manila on Friday that "out of the 36 towns of Isabela, *may jueteng sa lahat dito sa provincia* (there is jueteng throughout the province).

She also said the mayors received money from those earning from jueteng and that the local police could not crack down on jueteng because from 60 to 80 percent of their operational funds came from the mayors.

Padaca did not mention any names.

Dy, a brother of former Isabela Gov. Faustino Dy Jr., said Padaca should keep her mouth shut because her allegations were dividing local officials.

"There are many innocent people who were being [implicated] and were getting hurt," he said.

Commenting on the threat, Padaca said: "I welcome the libel case so we would learn the facts about jueteng that mayors, who are on the take, are hiding. The question is, will Mayor Dy really do it and can he get the mayors' support for his self-destructive move?"

A mayor, who asked not to be identified, said Padaca should be "more professional" in dealing with her fellow officials.

The mayor said Padaca should have met with them to discuss the problem instead of using the media to air unconfirmed allegations.

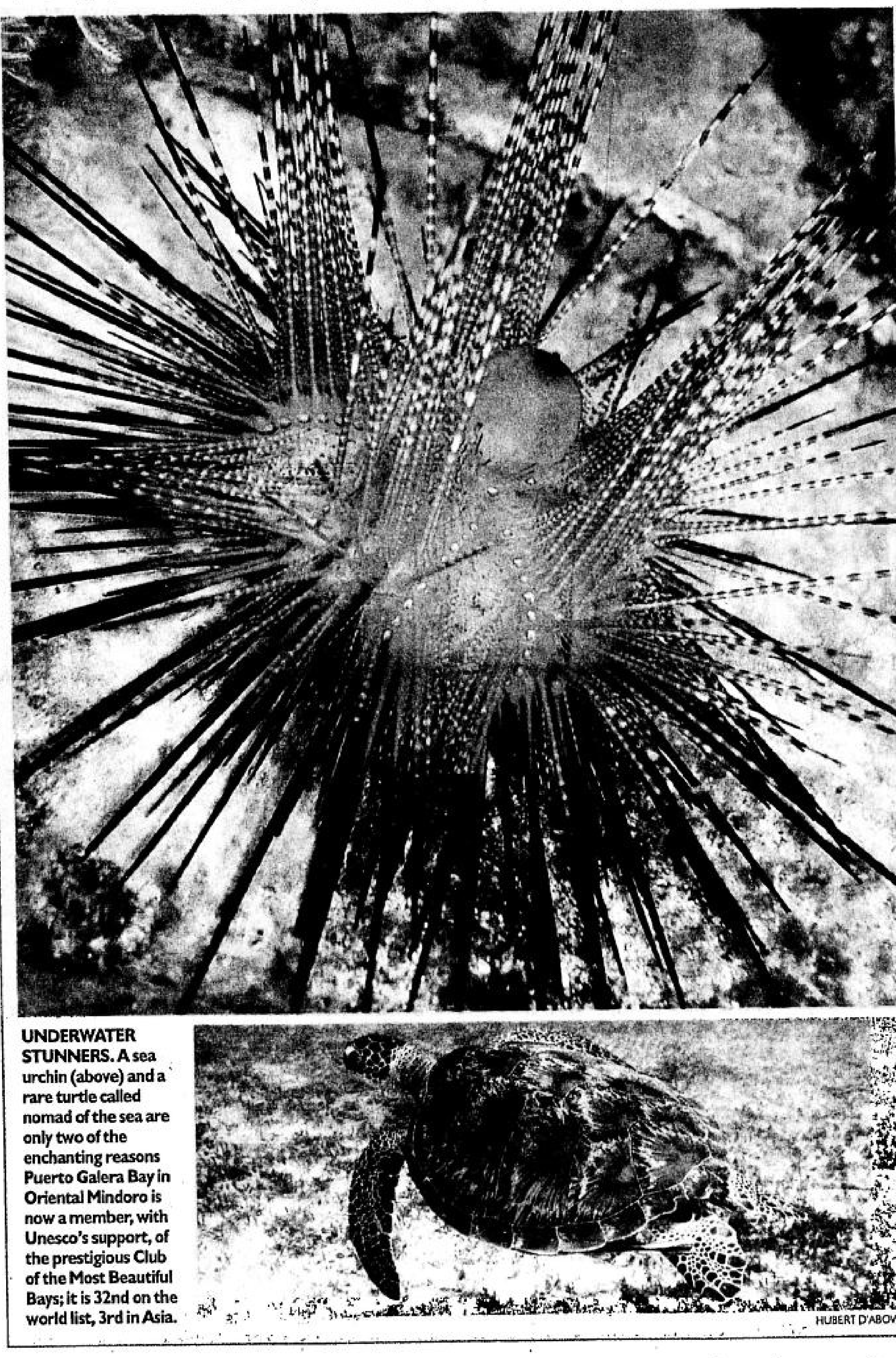
Mayor Isidro Siquian of Benito Soliven, the mayors' league's vice president, said he had not received any money from jueteng operators.

He said he had received information that the local police force was getting P5,000 a month from jueteng operators but he could not identify who was actually getting the amount.

Siquian said he had told his town's police chief he could be relieved if he failed to eradicate jueteng.

"I told them [local policemen] that I

MAYORS/ A21



UNDERWATER STUNNERS. A sea urchin (above) and a rare turtle called nomad of the sea are only two of the enchanting reasons Puerto Galera Bay in Oriental Mindoro is now a member, with Unesco's support, of the prestigious Club of the Most Beautiful Bays; it is 32nd on the world list, 3rd in Asia.

HUBERT D'ABOVILLE

Unwitting workers abroad clean dirty money

By Christian V. Esguerra

AT LEAST two jueteng lords have found a devious way to outwit the authorities and conceal some of their ill-gained assets in foreign banks.

And they are using overseas Filipino workers to get it done, a source familiar with the operation of the illegal numbers game told the INQUIRER.

All that is needed is an element of trust among the parties involved—and a cell phone—said the source, who asked not to be identified, fearing retaliation from jueteng operators.

The OFWs who have been lured into the scheme are apparently unaware of the role they are playing in the money laundering operation, according to the source.

One of the bigtime operators behind the scheme is based in Southern Tagalog, the other in Central Luzon, said the source.

Launched some time ago in the Middle East, the system involves the use of a "point man" who serves as the link between the OFW and the jueteng operator.

When the unsuspecting OFW, say in Saudi Arabia, wants to remit money to his family he contacts the point man.

By text message, the point man then gets in touch with the jueteng operator in the Philippines and says the OFW wants a certain amount sent to his family.

The jueteng lord then tells one of his legmen to deliver the peso equivalent of the sum to the family.

The money the family gets actually comes from the jueteng operator's gambling collections while the point man keeps the money—in foreign currency—given him by the OFW, said the source.

The source said the point man, depending on his arrangement with the jueteng operator, then deposits the foreign currency in his own or in the operator's bank account abroad, or uses other means to keep it.

"This way, the jueteng lord gets to practically convert his collection into a foreign currency and keep it in banks

JUETENG/ A21

Sierra Madre guardian is Isabela's best kept secret

By Jerry E. Esplanada

PALANAN, Isabela—This far-flung municipality has been known as the place where Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, President of the First Philippine Republic, made his "last stand" against US forces in 1901.

Not anymore. Nature conservationists have managed to push Palanan into the limelight, calling it "the home of the guardians of the Sierra Madre" and citing the local folk for "sacrificing their poor town's progress and development" in order to save the virgin forests in the northern part of the mountain range.

Some outsiders tag Palanan (pop. 17,000 plus) as "the town that time forgot," but many of its officials and residents do not seem to mind.

The tag somehow rings true, said Gov. Ma. Gracia Cielo Padaca, who described the 396-year-old town as "one of Isabela's best-kept secrets."

"Many Isabela folk find Palanan a mystery, mainly because of its inaccessibility and many natural wonders," Padaca said in an interview during the recent Sabutan festival.

Many years back, Palanan could have attained "instant development" by asking the government to build a highway or road network that would finally connect it to neighboring towns, Mayor Natividad Bernardo said.

"But we didn't, because it would mean destroying huge portions of the Sierra Madre's virgin forests," she said, adding:

"It was a difficult choice, but we prioritized nature conservation over the town's development and a lot of other opportunities. We have no regrets."

Palanan may have failed to prevent the capture of Aguinaldo by US troops in 1901, but this does not mean that the

SIERRA/ A22

PACIFIC WAR

In spin-off bid, PPI did not inform SEC of cash problems

By Alcuin Papa

(First of three parts)

SPECIAL REPORT
Project Editor:
Leah Makabenta

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission is set to intervene in the rehabilitation hearings of Pacific Plans Inc. at the Makati Regional Trial Court and has prepared an initial comment saying the preneed firm did not disclose its liquidity problems when it went to the SEC last year for approval of the transfer of its assets to a subsidiary, the INQUIRER has learned.

On June 9, 2004, the PPI board approved the creation of a subsidiary, Lifetime Plans Inc., to "spin off" the operations of the company's pension, memorial and a portion of its educational plans businesses.

Less than two months later, on Aug. 12, 2004, the SEC approved the spin-off, after which 70 percent of PPI's assets and liabilities were transferred to Lifetime Plans in exchange for one million shares of stock of Lifetime with a total par value of P100 million.

According to SEC records, the directors of PPI and Lifetime Plans were identical: Helen Yuchengco Dee (chair), Suzanne Yuchengco Santos, Rizalino S. Navarro, Margarito B. Teves and Armando M. Medina.

On Aug. 20, 2004, the PPI board authorized the sale of Lifetime Plans to a company called GPL (Great Pacific Life) Holdings.

On Sept. 9, 2004, Exemplar Holdings was organized as a wholly owned subsidiary of GPL Holdings with an initial paid-up capital of P100,000.

Later that month, PPI would enter into a service agreement with Lifetime Plans under which the latter would operate for PPI its education plans business.

On Jan. 25, 2005, Exemplar Holdings bought into Lifetime Plans.

On the same day, GPL Assurance, which owned PPI, transferred ownership of PPI to GPL Holdings.

All of these companies are under the

IN SPIN-OFF/ A8

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao will be cloudy with widespread rainshowers and thunderstorms. Visayas including Palawan will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms in the afternoon or evening.

COMPILED BY: CHONA GALANG, PDI RESEARCH/05/15/05 SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

7 suspected Abus killed in clash

By Luige A. del Puerto and Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau

SEVEN suspected members of the Abu Sayyaf group were killed, while two Marines were wounded during a firefight in Patikul, Sulu, early yesterday.

Capt. Rommel Abrao, Marine Corps information officer, said two alleged "sub-leaders" of the bandit group were killed in the encounter.

He identified them as Kumander Mihadon and Abri Isa. Mihadon was reportedly a close aide of Kumander Putol, one of the Abu Sayyaf's top leaders, while Isa was allegedly involved in the abduction of 21 foreign tourists and workers from Sipadan, Malaysia, five years ago.

Soldiers recovered five Baby Armalite rifles and four M203 grenade launchers from the slain rebels.

The wounded soldiers were not identified. They were taken to the Asturias Hospital in Jolo.

The military has launched pursuit operations against the fleeing bandit group which is linked to the regional terror network Jemaah Islamiya.

Col. Juancho Sabban, 3rd Marine Brigade commander, said Marines raided the bandits' lair in Sitio Latih on Friday night.

"Many of them were still sleeping and were caught by surprise by our attacking special operation team," Sabban said. "When they (bandits) woke up, they realized that they were already facing the Marines."

He said the lair was a camp for an Abu Sayyaf leader because "only top ranking ASG possess Baby Armalite rifles."

An undetermined number of Abu Sayyaf were also wounded in the battle, Sabban said.

"In terms of body count, this is the biggest encounter we have had against the Abu Sayyaf since February," said military spokesperson Lt. Col. Buenventura Pascual.

The encounter took place barely four kilometers from the province's capital, Jolo, an indication that the Abu Sayyaf had been forced by military operations to flee the hills, according to Sabban.

"Marine forces have already occupied some of the ASG's known areas in Patikul... Combat operations have clearly displaced the lawless elements and forced them to come down from the hills," Sabban said in a statement.

"This is the reality in Sulu," he said. "When we operate in the hills, they (Abu Sayyaf) come down. That is why we really need the support of the mayors, especially barangay officials."

Pascual said that in the past, Abu Sayyaf fleeing the military would simply hide their arms somewhere and mingle with the civilian population. In some cases, they acted as relatives of residents. *With reports from AP, AFP*

Help fight crime, GMA urges Pinoys

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday rallied all Filipinos to help stem the rising crime rate and called for tougher laws on gun control as well as an end to the "culture of violence" that she said was being promoted in the mass media.

In a speech at the start of an anticrime conference in Malacañang over which she presided, Ms Arroyo urged educators and teachers to develop new school programs that would teach the youth "the value of peace and respect for human life, and how to resolve conflicts in a peaceful way."

She also called on "cultural role models," particularly entertainers, to "help bring under control the glorification of violence that coarsens the value of life itself."

Government officials, military and police officers, lawmakers, businessmen and social workers took part in the conference.

Speaking later with reporters, Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes said the participants agreed that criminality was "a social phenomenon that can only be addressed by the entire society working together."

He said the government's main goal in the anticrime campaign was to restore the credibility of law enforcers in order to regain public confidence and instill fear in the hearts of criminals.

"We face violence in far too many forms with far too many victims—domestic violence against women, criminal violence against law-abiding citizens, violence in efforts to overthrow our nation, violence to resolve political differences," the President said.

She added: "There is no such thing as good violence or bad violence, or even an acceptable level of violence. It is all bad and we must stand up to it.

"I call on all concerned Filipinos to join me as we take back our right to live in peace and harmony, free from indiscriminate violence be it on the streets, in our homes, or on TV."

While the conference was called specifically to address the string of high-profile crimes in recent weeks, including the killing of journalists, Ms Arroyo said she wanted the broader problem of the spreading "scourge of violence" addressed.

"We must solve these crimes but we must also go beyond these crimes to turn around the culture of violence itself," she said.

Bomb blast kills boy, 11

DAVAO CITY—An 11-year-old boy was killed while a barangay tanod and two civilians were wounded when a "bomb package" reportedly intended for a radio anchor in the gold-rush area of Mt. Diwata, Monkayo, in Compostela Valley, exploded Friday night.

Killed was Marlon Jamot while injured were barangay police Ruben Litangan and civilians Ramel Perez and Ramel Guintibano.

Mt. Diwata barangay chair Francisco Tito said the package, which was very well-wrapped, was intended for Lucio Ceniza, manager and anchor of Gold Radyo, a franchise of the Manila Broadcasting Co.'s Radyo Natin.

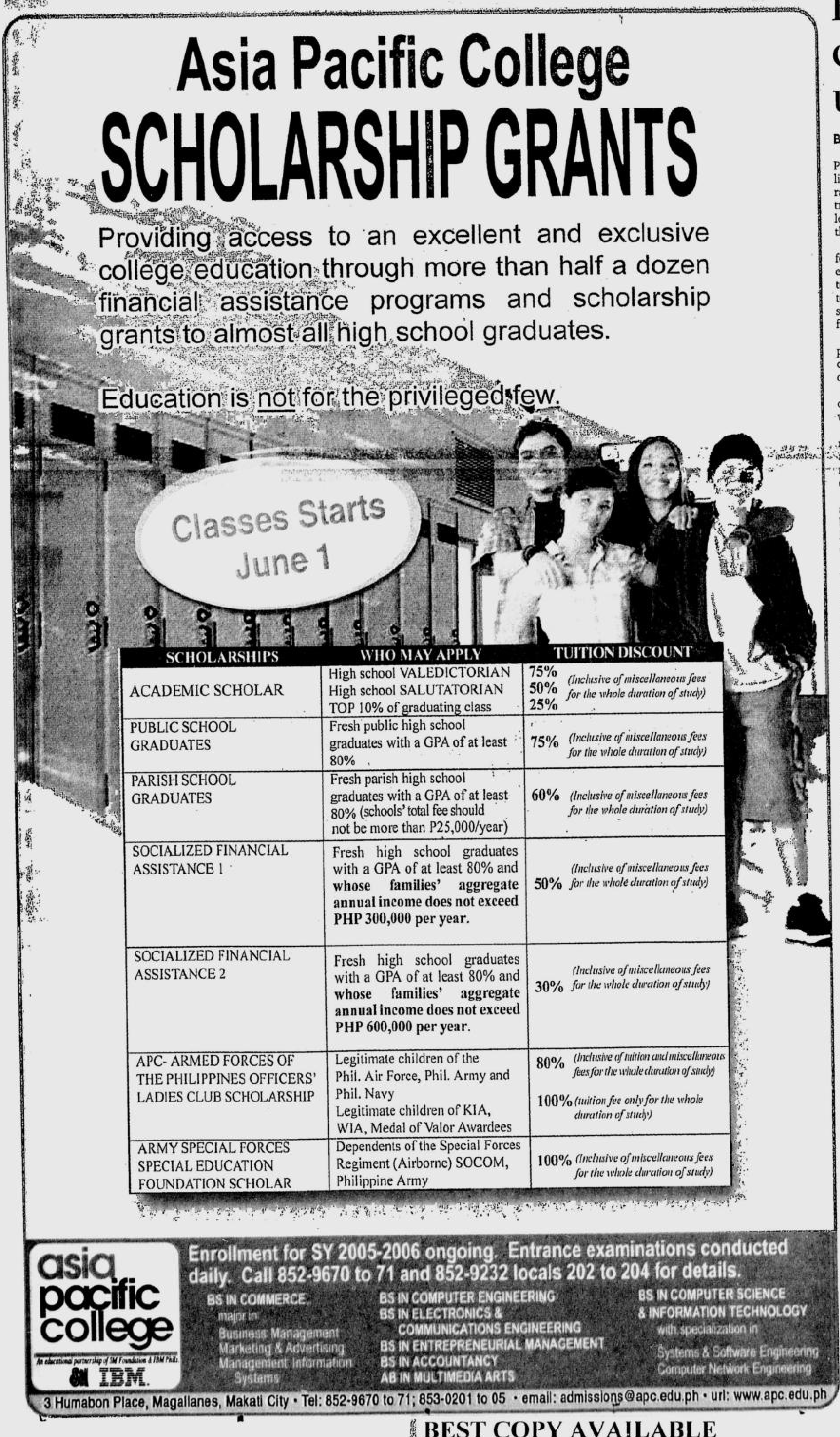
Tito said the package was delivered at about 3 p.m. by a *habal-habal* (motorcycle taxi) driver who allegedly got it in turn from a woman who was in a Nissan Safari SUV in Monkayo proper.

Tito said barangay tanod immediately called Ceniza, who was in Davao City at the time, on his mobile phone.

Ceniza told the tanod that he did not know the sender and immediately suspected that the package could be a bomb.

On their way to the Army detachment with the package, Litangan and his companions became curious and opened it. The bomb exploded.

Ceniza said the incident might have something to do with the barangay's intensified campaign against illegal drugs. *Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



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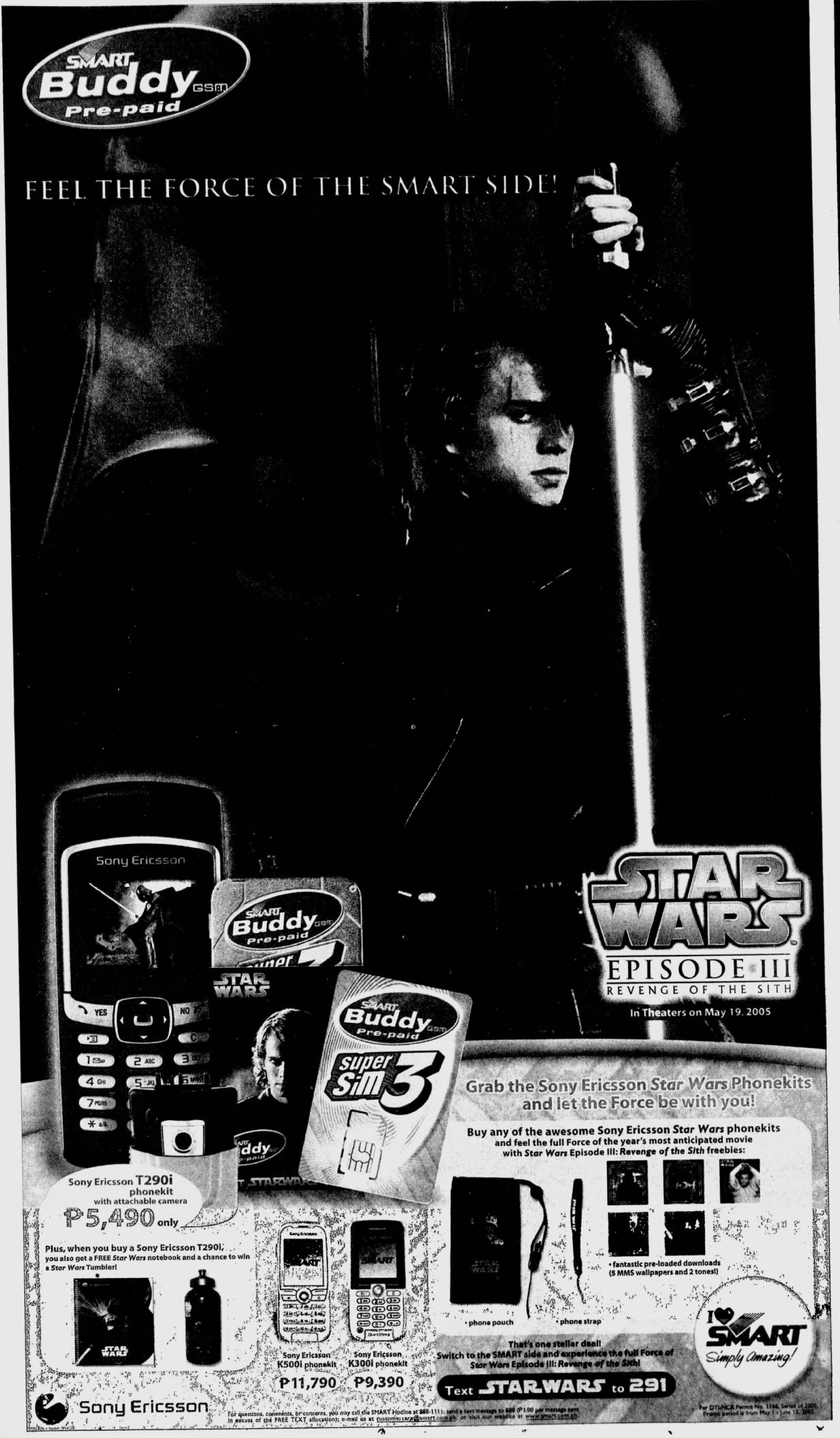

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Suspect in Aurora publisher's slay arrested

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

DINGALAN, Aurora—Authorities yesterday arrested a suspect in the killing of Starline Times Recorder publisher-editor Philip Agustin in Barangay Paltic here, on the same day the victim was buried.

Senior Supt. Perfecto Palad, chief of Task Force Agustin, said the suspect, Rey Morete, confessed his participation in the killing.

"[Morete] confessed that the plan [to kill Agustin] was hatched in his house," Palad said, adding that the suspect admitted that he served as the lookout during the slaying.

Agustin, 54, a widower, was shot dead on May 10 inside his daughter's house in Purok Mulawin in Barangay Paltic just as he was preparing to eat dinner past 11 p.m. He was the 69th Filipino journalist killed since 1986.

Operatives of the Philippine National Police and the National Bureau of Investigation arrested Morete at noon in a house owned by a certain Jessica where he supposedly hid.

Morete has been turned over to the NBI central office in Manila where he will be presented for inquest before the Department of Justice on Monday, Palad said.

He said Morete did not implicate Mayor Jaime Ylarde in the murder. The police had included Ylarde, a former policeman, as one of the possible suspects in the murder of Agustin. But the mayor has denied any hand in the killing.

Palad said Morete implicated his cousin, Boyet Morete, and Anuel Alday, an employee of the Dingalan municipal government and pointed to them as the ones who shot Agustin.

Palad said the police now have strong evidence in the Agustin case with the arrest and testimony of Rey Morete. But he declined to provide details.

The police have launched a manhunt for Boyet Morete and Alday.

Couple Panchito and Isabel Pilapil and a relative of Agustin earlier testified that they saw three men at a videoke bar near the house of Agustin's daughter hours before the killing.

During Agustin's burial yesterday, some 300 relatives, friends and supporters of the victim appealed for justice from President Macapagal-Arroyo.

He was buried in a plot at the municipal cemetery here near where his mother was buried in February.

"When they killed a journalist, they attempted to suppress the truth and cow us into silence. But we are not afraid," Councilor Shiela Taay said, adding that protest rallies were scheduled in the next days to demand transparency from Mayor Ylarde in how calamity, rehabilitation and resettlement funds and other resources were used.

In his newsweekly's May 2-8 special edition, Agustin had exposed alleged anomalies committed by Ylarde such as missing logs, the slow resettlement of displaced families, the spending of P1.5 million for the rental of heavy equipment used in clearing the area around a privately owned cockpit and the realignment of funds meant for flash flood and landslide victims..

Agustin was carrying 500 copies of the special edition when he returned to his hometown on May 10. He was later shot dead.

NUJP: Comparing media, soldiers' deaths wrong

By Luige del Puerto

INTERIOR Secretary Angelo Reyes should not compare the murder of journalists with the heroic deaths of soldiers and policemen killed in action, the chair of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines said yesterday.

Unlike the soldier who carries a gun into battle, a reporter is armed only with "a pen, a camera or a microphone," said NUJP chair Inday Espina-Varona.

Last Friday, Reyes, who had been ordered by President Macapagal-Arroyo to solve the media killings the way he did kidnappings, lamented that the death of soldiers and policemen did not get as much attention as the slaying of media people.

He said that when soldiers were killed, "they become statistics" and when a policeman was killed, only he and national police Director General Arturo Lomibao visit the wake.

Reyes was apparently saying that journalists should not be lamenting the deaths of their colleagues if they could give the same kind of attention to military and police deaths, said Varona.

"Media do pay homage to policemen or soldiers killed in the line of duty. Media have stories of their heroism," she said.

She said the media routinely cover the heroism of soldiers and policemen killed in action.

Reyes clearly was missing the point, Varona said.

"The death of one journalist is another death for democracy. You silence (the press) and you'll get a cowed populace," she said.

Varona said the NUJP has rejected Reyes' call for a tripartite conference to plan strategy to put a stop to the media murders.

She said that if Reyes was really sincere, he should simply sit down with the media representatives that he regularly meets and who are ready to articulate their grievances.

The Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas also assailed Reyes' comment that there should be a "roster of real journalists because not all attacks on journalists are assaults on press freedom."

"That could be a hit list," said KMP information officer Carla Ala..

Ala said a top police offical's suggestion that the penalty for libel be increased showed that authorities blamed the media for the killings.

"It seems the government wants to go after media men, not the killers," Ala said.

Son of OFW slain in Iraq assured of education

By Jerome Aning

THE SON of a Filipino engineer who was killed in an ambush by suspected Iraqi militants in Baghdad, Iraq, last month received a scholarship grant under the government's Tuloy-Aral project.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas handed a Tuloy-Aral scholarship certificate to 10-year-old Richard Torres, a fourth-grader and son of engineer Rey Torres, and 49 other children during the 23rd anniversary of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration last week.

Rey Torres, 32, a father of five, was a security guard and driver at Qatar International Trading Co. when he was killed in a shooting incident in downtown Baghdad on April 17.

Tuloy-Aral is a joint endeavor of the OWWA and individual overseas Filipino workers—from the Middle East, Japan and elsewhere—to help less-fortunate OFWs and their families. One OFW, Yolanda Tawasin, made a big personal donation to the scholarships.

It was launched by the Department of Labor and Employment, Department of Social Welfare and Development and the Philippine Overseas Labor Offices (Polo).

Sto. Tomas said that since millions of Filipinos began working overseas decades ago, "there are many success stories but, unfortunately, there were also those who were unable to preserve the gains of overseas employment and eventually regressed in their socioeconomic condition."

Sto. Tomas said the effort to help uplift the less-successful OFWs was inspired by President Macapagal-Arroyo who once said: "Our OFWs must be able to feel consistently the government's (caring) presence in their lives."

OWWA Administrator Marianito Roque said that, initially, 100 children were named to the first batch of Tuloy-Aral beneficiaries.

Roque said DWSD and OWWA regional offices provided family profiles to help in the selection of grantees, while the Polos helped locate successful and financially stable OFWs of good standing to take on the role of the children's foster parents.

Under the project, each OFW foster parent provides US$100 for one year for a child's elementary or high school education.

The amount covers the tuition fee, books, supplies, school contributions, uniforms and a stipend.

Lake 'saviors' open Manila meet

LEADERS in freshwater lake preservation from all over the world have gathered in Manila for the 10th World Living Lakes Conference beginning today until May 19.

Some 70 participants from Russia, the United States, the People's Republic of China, Germany and more than 24 countries will exchange scientific information and best practices to protect the remaining lakes, wetlands and other freshwater bodies in the world.

Key officials from the Ministry of Environment of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Global Nature Fund were welcomed at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on Saturday by Laguna Lake Development Authority general manager Ed Manda.

This year's conference has two themes: "The Lake and its People: Responsible Stewardship by Lake Communities" and "The Lake and its People: Sustainable Development of Densely Populated Lake Regions."

The conference, hosted by the Philippines, will also focus on Laguna Lake's threatened existence. Local fishermen who are losing their fishing grounds have raised concerns about the lake's pollution level, rapid urbanization, and shrinking shore land due to illegal reclamation and back-filling.

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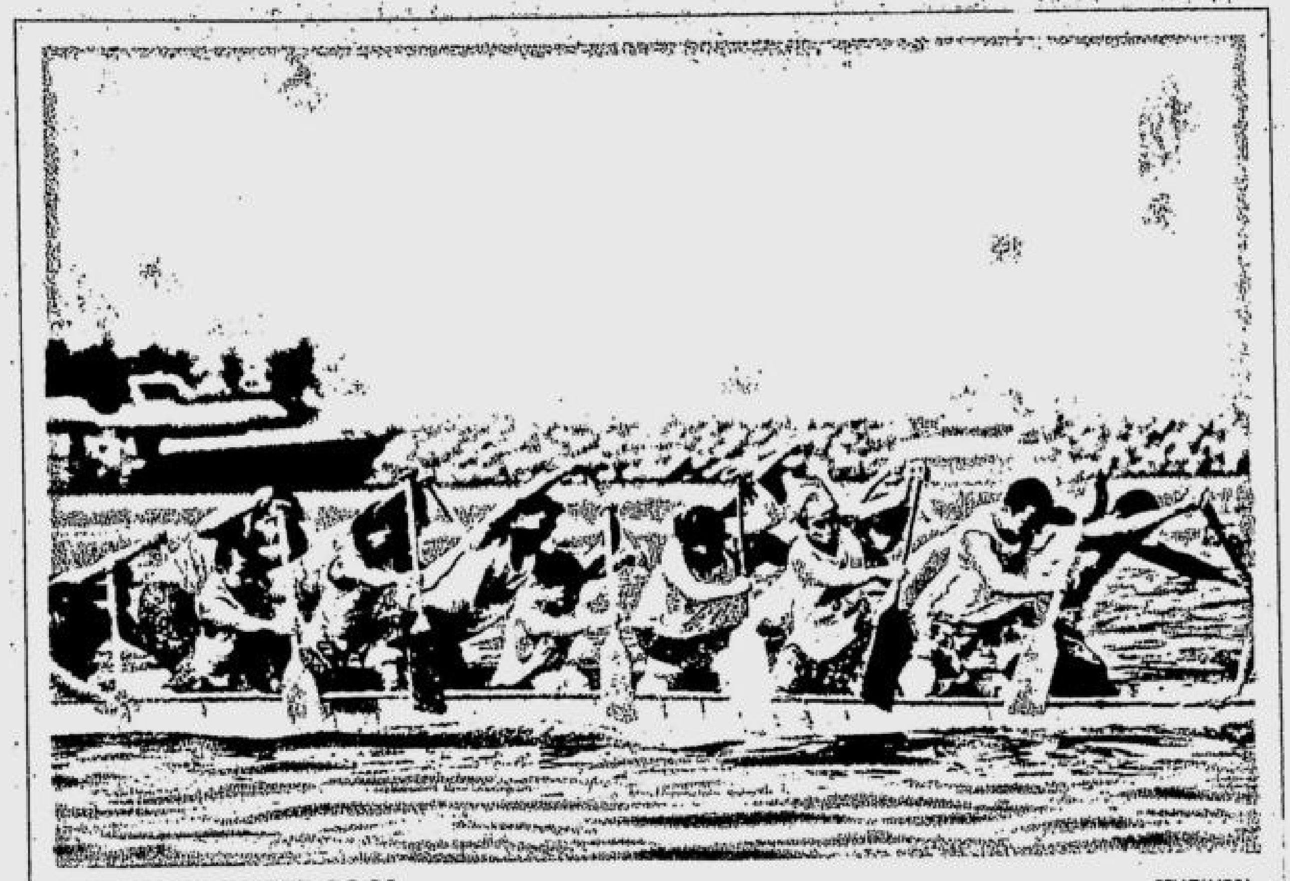

REM ZAMORA

ONE WAY TO KEEP COOL
Members of one of the teams participating in the 4th Summer Sea Sports Festival yesterday on Manila Bay row like mad to keep in contention.

Annan backs RP peace, interfaith initiatives

By Jerome Aning

FOREIGN Secretary Alberto Romulo met yesterday with United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan and both discussed UN support for Philippine initiatives in the world body, the peace process with Filipino rebels and the government's antiterrorism bill.

During the meeting, Annan gave his full support to the interfaith dialogue initiative of the Philippines, Romulo said.

"I had a very frank and fruitful discussion with the secretary general. He was upbeat and very supportive of our interfaith initiative, including our plan to hold the Tripartite Conference for Interfaith Cooperation for Peace in June," the secretary said after the meeting.

Romulo launched yesterday the Tripartite Conference Initiative of the Philippines at UN headquarters in New York City.

Annan said he was glad Manila's peace effort was bearing fruit.

"He gave his full support to our peace process and I briefed him on our progress. He expressed optimism and confidence in our success. I thanked him for his political support for our efforts to achieve peace," Romulo said.

The foreign secretary said he also thanked Annan for sending a technical team to the Philippines to assist the government in drafting its counter-terrorism law.

The UN chief said the international body fully supported the efforts of individual governments to fight terrorism, Romulo added.

"We both agreed that internal legislation was important in this fight and I told him that after passing a major piece of reform legislation in the form of the value-added tax, the legislative agenda of the President will now place our antiterror bill on the front burner," Romulo said.

Annan also thanked Romulo for his participation in the 2005 Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and for the active participation of the Philippines in the Security Council and in the negotiations for reforms in the UN.

"We discussed these matters with a view to finding ways to make the UN work even better. We both want a UN that works and is responsive to the pressing needs of the times," Romulo said.

Romulo also reiterated President Macapagal-Arroyo's invitation to Annan to visit the Philippines. The foreign affairs chief said Annan told him he was "eager to visit the Philippines, hopefully before the end of the year," and that the Philippine Permanent Mission to the UN would be coordinating the details of the visit.

Bill on drug prices seeks 10M names

SIXTY-NINE congressmen representing the major political parties and 14 party-list groups have launched a nationwide campaign to gather 10 million signatures in support of a bill giving the government the power to regulate the price of medicine.

Rep. Ferjenel Biron (Kampi, 4th dist., Iloilo) said the support he was getting in and out of Congress since he and three other lawmakers—Rep. Rolex Suplico (LDP, 5th dist., Iloilo), Rep. Janette Garin (Lakas-CMD, 1st dist., Iloilo) and Rep. Rodolfo Plaza (NPC, lone dist., Agusan del Sur)—filed House Bill No. 3830 two-and-a-half months ago was beyond expectations.

"Today, we would like to inform the Filipino people that your House of Representatives has already taken a very significant step leading to the passage of a law regulating the prices of medicines in the Philippines," Biron said.

The neophyte lawmaker, however, said: "We in Congress can't do it alone; every Filipino must come forward and be counted in the whole process by signing his or her name in various designated signing centers nationwide."

Biron said signing centers would be set up in every congressional district, provincial capitol building, city and town hall, barangay center and drug store belonging to the Drug Store Association of the Philippines.

Biron said that as soon as the 10 million signatures are gathered, the bill's co-authors would take them to the President, "if only to impress upon her the true sentiments of our people."

"I don't think any President could ignore 10 million Filipinos pleading with her to certify the urgency of the measure and make it an integral part of her legislative policy agenda," he said.

During Wednesday's press conference and signature launch, representatives of various socio-civic organizations and groups representing elderly veterans showed up in support of the bill.

Biron said Rotary Clubs, Lions Clubs, Jaycee chapters and the government-owned Philippine International Trading Corp. have thrown their support behind the measure.

"This, I believe, is a watershed event in the lives and careers of all members of this 13th Congress because, in the real sense of it, any legislator who would oppose this bill is bound to be haunted by his conscience all his life," Biron said.

Garin, who like Biron is a doctor of medicine, said that in this day and age, when many Filipinos live and die without ever taking medicine [because they can't afford it], it has become imperative for all patriotic Filipinos to step forward and be counted.

Deported Fil-Aussie OK, says sis

By Veronica Uy
INQ7.net

VIVIAN Alvarez, the Philippine-born, naturalized Australian citizen who was mistakenly deported back to the country of her birth, is all right mentally, her half-sister Cecil Solon told INQ7.net on Saturday.

"As far as I'm concerned, *maayos naman siya* [she's basically all right], except physically. *Sumasagot naman* [she answers] when asked. The [Australian] consul general talked to her and she was civil," said Solon, who was with officials of the Australian Embassy when they went to Olongapo City to get Alvarez (who also uses the surnames Solon, Young and Wilson).

Quoting the nuns who had cared for Alvarez in the Olongapo hospice for several years before she was located, Solon said her younger sister cannot walk, had just learned how to feed herself, and had to be helped when dressing.

Asked to comment on reports on her half-sister's mental stability, Solon said: "Except for some memory loss, she's OK... Even if you're not mentally unstable but if you're locked up for a long time, you'd be overwhelmed if there are a lot of people asking you a lot of questions."

Solon, who was one of seven children from their father's first wife, said Alvarez, who visited her in the late '80s with her husband, initially did not recognize her.

INQ7.net learned that Alvarez is staying at a condominium-hotel in the Makati financial district.

A certain Amy who answered the door said Alvarez did not wish to be interviewed and she and her family wished that their privacy be respected. She said she could not discuss when Alvarez was leaving for Australia.

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2 journalist-witnesses…

From page A1

She took it lightly because it had an edge of gallows humor to it, like "*Bilang na ang maliligayang araw mo* [Your happy days are numbered]"—the type of joke people might make about someone "suicidal" enough to want to bid goodbye to single-blessedness, amid a fiscal crisis.

Salva is the CDN publisher's awardee for enterprise reporting this year—and a prosecution witness against an assistant city prosecutor who allegedly received P10,000 from a lawyer involved in a drug-dealing case.

Salva, 29, would have shrugged off the text message which she received on Friday last week if it had not been quickly followed by nastier ones.

6 threats

In a span of two days, she received at least six death threats.

They varied from a simple, straightforward warning—"*Patyon tika*. He. 3x [I'll kill you. He he he]"—to a droll and at the same time ghoulish "*Ingatz lang u ha, kung ayaw mo pang mamatay, hwag kng magpakialam ha? tsk, tsk … mahal ngaun ang* casket! [Take care, please, if you don't want to die yet, don't meddle, please? … Caskets are expensive these days!]"

Sometimes, the message was plainly ridiculous ("*Wag kng mag-alala, hayaan mo mula ngayon, palagi kitang ipagdarasal na sana kunin ka na ni* Lord"—Don't worry, from now on, I will always pray that the Lord finally takes you)."

The messages came from at least six different phone numbers.

Upon the advice of her friends concerned over her safety, Salva told her editors at the CDN about the messages—the first threats she had received in her seven years in the justice beat.

Police protection

CDN publisher Eileen G. Mangubat advised Salva "not to take anything for granted," and alerted the police, citing a recent report of the foreign-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) indicting the Philippines as the most murderous country in the world for journalists.

"In view of the continuing rash of violence against Philippine journalists, especially those working outside Metro Manila, we can't afford to take this incident lightly," Mangubat wrote police regional head Chief Supt. Eduardo Gador.

Immediately, Gador assigned a police escort to Salva. For its part, CDN officials granted the reporter a one-week vacation with pay.

Another reporter, Lloyd Suarez of dySS-GMA 7, has been receiving his own share of threats.

Suarez said the threats started two weeks ago after four motorcycle-riding men tailed him while he was driving to the GMA Studio in Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City.

The radio dySS anchorman lost the stalkers by driving his motorcycle at full speed to the station.

Prosecution witnesses

Salva and Suarez have something in common: They are listed as prosecution witnesses in the case of Assistant City Prosecutor Mary Ann Castro before the Sandiganbayan.

Castro is charged with violating the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for public officials in connection with the P10,000 she supposedly received from a lawyer on Jan. 25, 2002.

CDN editor in chief Ivan Suansing told the INQUIRER that Salva, as a prosecution witness, would have affirmed in her planned testimony a story she wrote about Castro's alleged receipt of the P10,000.

Last Wednesday, the Sandiganbayan stood by its ruling suspending Castro for 90 days pending her trial.

Three justices of the Sandiganbayan's second division have already heard the testimony of two witnesses, including Suarez, who told the antigraft court that Castro even allegedly asked him to count the money on her table.

Suarez said he suggested to Castro that they entrap the lawyer, identified as Gines Abellana, who was allegedly fronting for a member of a drug syndicate.

"It would have been very big news," he said.

According to Suarez and the other witness, Amalia Victor-Ouano, a former friend of Castro who took the stand against her, the assistant city prosecutor told them the money was handed to her allegedly by Abellana.

The lawyer allegedly asked her to "go light" on the bail application of an accused drug trafficker in a Hong Kong Triad case.

Money unreturned

Castro supposedly tried to reject the envelope and look for the lawyer so she could give it back, they said, but for one reason or another, the money remained with her until Monday, Jan. 28.

The preventive suspension on Castro was not a punishment but was imposed because evidence in the case was strong and there was a need to prevent an accused from influencing witnesses or the case itself.

Sought for comment yesterday, the usually talkative Castro said nothing for the record.

Why she was still performing her official duties as Talisay assistant prosecutor has puzzled the Ombudsman's prosecutors.

Assistant Prosecutor Pamela Baring-Uy said she had filed a manifestation asking why the Department of Justice had failed to enforce the suspension order.

Associate Justice Edilberto Sandoval, chair of the Sandiganbayan second division, told reporters the order must be implemented by Acting Cebu City Prosecutor Nicholas Sellon and Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez.

"We ordered them to report to us if the order is implemented," Sandoval said. "It's up to them now. If there's a valid reason for them not to implement it, we will assess it."

Prosecutor Sellon said Gonzalez had not responded to his query on who should implement the order against Castro.

Not bribery

Castro is charged with criminal violation of a special law, Republic Act No. 6713 or the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards, and not bribery.

Earlier, the Court of Appeals found that the evidence to prove bribery was "insufficient" because there were no eyewitnesses to the act.

Lawyers from the Office of the Special prosecutor of the Ombudsman welcomed the Sandiganbayan's move suspending Castro.

"It should be immediately implemented," said prosecutor Lito Galisinao, "unless she [Castro] can get a restraining order."

DOJ inaction

Baring-Uy said enforcing Castro's suspension "is ministerial and mandatory on the part of the city prosecutor even before Castro asked for a reconsideration."

Baring-Uy questioned the DOJ's failure to implement it.

"Once a court orders anybody to do an act, we have no discretion not to do it. If we fail to abide by any order of the court, it's a contemptuous act," Baring-Uy told CDN.

She said the Court of Appeals' dismissal of the bribery case against Castro could not affect the case before the Sandiganbayan, which is anchored on a special law.

Baring-Uy said she was still studying the possibility of letting Salva take the witness stand despite the death threats against her.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, May 15, 2005
Pentecost Sunday

1st Reading: **Acts 2:1-11**
The Spirit comes as a mighty storm

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. And suddenly out of the sky came a sound like a strong rushing wind and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. There appeared tongues as if of fire which parted and came to rest upon each one of them. All were filled with Holy Spirit and began to speak other languages, as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

Staying in Jerusalem were religious Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd gathered, all excited because each heard them speaking in his own language. Full of amazement and wonder, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? How is it that we hear them in our own native language? Here are Parthians, Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and foreigners who accept Jewish beliefs, Cretians and Arabians; and all of us hear them proclaiming in our own language what God, the Savior, does.

2nd Reading: **1st Corinthians 12:3-7,12-13**
We are one in the spirit

Brothers and sisters, no one can say, "Jesus is the Lord," except by the Holy Spirit. There is diversity of gifts, but the Spirit is the same. There is diversity of ministries, but the Lord is the same. There is diversity of works, but the same God works in all.

The Spirit reveals his presence in each one with a gift which is also a service.

As the body is one, having many members, and all the members, while being many, form one body, so it is with Christ. All of us, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free, have been baptized in one Spirit to form one body and all of us have been given to drink from the one Spirit.

Gospel: **John 20:19-23**
Receive the Holy Spirit

On the evening of that day, the first day after the sabbath, the doors were locked where the disciples were, because of their fear of the Jews, but Jesus came and stood in their midst. He said to them, "Peace be with you"; then he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples kept looking at the Lord and were full of joy.

Again Jesus said to them, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." After saying this he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit; for those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained."

Commentary

WE read again the Easter appearance of the Risen Lord to his disciples in the upper room, bringing them the Peace of Resurrection, the power over suffering and death, his showing forth of his wounds in his body and the gift of the Spirit breathed upon them, sending them forth into the world, as the Father sent him. The power of the Spirit is given to forgive and to hold bound the world when it comes to sin, evil and injustice. There is no place on earth where our God can be kept out and resurrection life seeps into every corner of the world. Now we are to be witnesses to the power of the Cross, the Truth of Jesus' words and the proclamation of forgiveness and hope-we are one with God and meant to live in communion and peace. Peace be with you. Peace be with us all. Peace be to the world.

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Korean War vets in hall of fame

TWO FILIPINO officers who fought in the Korean War were inducted recently into the US Army Officer Candidate School (OCS) Hall of Fame.

Brig. Gen. Bienvenido Castro (ret.) and the late Brig. Gen Vicente Evidente were the first Filipinos so honored by the US Army. The OCS Hall of Fame recognizes leadership excellence in both military and civilian service. Induction in the hall is the highest honor bestowed on an OCS graduate.

Castro served with the 20th Battalion Combat Team (BCT) of the Philippine Expeditionary Force to Korea (Peftok). Evidente fought with the 10th BCT. Both were second lieutenants during the Korean War (1950-53).

ROTC graduates, Castro and Evidente were selected to attend the OCS at Fort Riley, Kansas, as members of Class 18-49. After OCS graduation, both fought in the campaign against the Hukbalahap that was attempting to overthrow the Philippine government.

The induction took place at Fort Benning, Georgia, the US Army's infantry training center and site of the OCS Hall of Fame.

The dangers of mixing business *with* pleasure

PEOPLE & PROFESSIONS

By Karina Y. Lopez

I'm a third-year engineering student working part-time as a bartender in one of the coolest clubs in Makati. I am also having an affair with my lady boss-owner who is married and has children. We have been intimate for almost a year now but for some strange reason, she told me recently she wanted out. She said, *"Ayoko na ng gulo."* And that her high stature in society is being compromised, not to mention her marriage to a powerful man (who can even have me killed!). Because of this, even our professional relationship is strained. I dread the day she would ask me to leave the bar. Problem is, I am not ready to give up all the "perks". She has supported me for so long I don't think I can go on without her. Plus, I can't be without a job as I am still paying for my own tuition. I don't know if I can get a job elsewhere given my limited skills and knowledge. I really fear losing my job *and her*! What should I do? Need your advice fast!

cooldude707

In any workplace, mixing business with pleasure can cause conflict not only between the two people involved but also among the employees. Any normal relationship is always subject to different kinds of pressure, all the more a professional one. Such liaisons put you in the midst of gossip, envy, and "politicking".

It is indeed unavoidable to feel attraction towards your employer especially when she reciprocates the feeling. However, the decision to get emotionally and/or physically involved is still up to you.

And because your boss is married, your relationship was all the more doomed from the very beginning. Let's face it, you are committing adultery and now that she is planning to put a stop to this illicit affair, you must respect her decision.

This would be hard on you especially as you appear to be so dependent on her. But you have to learn to stand on your own. Surely you have skills yet untapped that, if developed, will help you sustain your studies and eventually, secure your future.

However harsh this may sound, kill the relationship now before it gets out of hand. Nothing good will come out of it. You're still young after all, and seemingly full of potential to succeed. Don't waste your time in futile endeavors. Look for another job and *perhaps* another girlfriend who's single, unattached and not your boss!

(Karina Y. Lopez is a human resource consultant who specializes in relationships in the workplace. She has headed Ortega Management Solutions (OMS) since 1995. Send feedback to karina_oms @trust-me.com)

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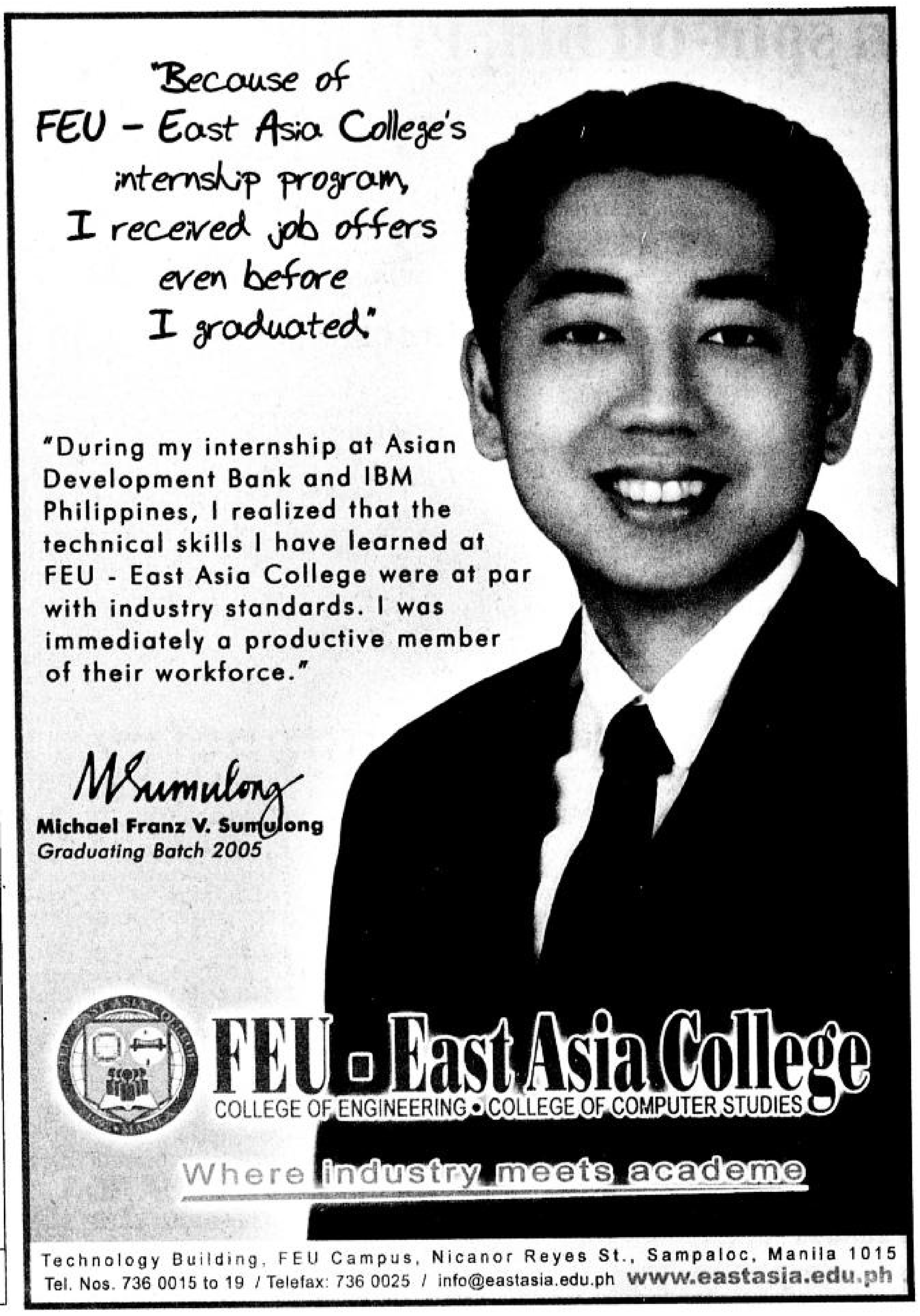
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In spin-off bid, PPI did not inform SEC of cash problems

From page A1

Yuchengco Group.

Legalizing fraud?

In its initial comment, a copy of which was obtained by the INQUIRER, the SEC said the "sequence of actions undertaken by PPI prior to the filing of its petition for rehabilitation with the Regional Trial Court may serve as bases for the commission to make a determination of possible 'bad faith' on the part of PPI in using their 'applications' with the Commission as a way to legalize an otherwise fraudulent scheme to evade its obligations under its existing plan contracts."

The SEC said that when PPI came to it in June 2004 for approval of its transfer of assets to Lifetime Plans Inc., it "did not disclose that the company was in serious liquidity condition."

Neither did it inform the commission of its intention to file the petition for rehabilitation now before the courts.

The INQUIRER has also learned that as early as 2000, PPI had approached the Abello Concepcion Regala and Cruz (Accra) law office asking the firm to evaluate a plan for rehabilitation.

At the time, a group of plan holders were asking PPI to honor plans that they had bought from the secondary market and had in fact initiated a conciliation action before the SEC, documents of the firm showed.

In its comment, the SEC said a thorough study should be made of the transfer of PPI's assets to Lifetime Plans "to determine if the same were made to prejudice its plan holders."

'Exaggeration'

It also said PPI's use of high tuition rates as the reason for its liquidity problems was "an exaggeration."

It noted that tuition rate increases, based on the presentations of PPI in its petition, "[had] tapered off from the previous years to the present."

Therefore, its effects on the company's present financial condition, as PPI has claimed, were an exaggeration, the SEC comment said.

It noted that before and after the spin-off, the financial statements of PPI "did not reflect any trust fund deficiency. Nor did PPI disclose any financial problem."

"The Commission was made to believe that PPI was financially stable and capable to meet its obligations under its contracts," the SEC said in its initial comment.

Accra's misgivings

In the evaluation it gave PPI, Accra expressed its misgivings about the firm's plan to petition for rehabilitation.

In a March 9, 2000, letter to Benigno Zialcita III, PPI executive vice president and chief operating officer at the time, Accra said it would be hard to cite the increase of tuition rates as a reason for asking to be placed under rehabilitation.

"Even assuming that the increases in education costs were beyond your control, the fact that your business is precisely the assumption of risks will preclude the availability of this defense. Moreover, such increases were foreseeable, even expected," said the Accra opinion written by lawyer Teresita Herbosa.

Herbosa said the rise in the inflation rate was also not sufficient justification.

"It has been held in one case that while there has been a decline in the purchasing power of the Philippine peso, this downward fall of the currency cannot be considered 'extraordinary' but simply a universal trend that has not spared the country," Herbosa said.

Herbosa also said that the kind of contract that PPI had with plan holders fell under the theory of "contract of adhesion," meaning the contract would be interpreted against PPI as it was the one that drafted it.

Back in 2000, Herbosa had told PPI that the arguments of the claimants tended to outweigh those of the company.

"It would be difficult to refute the claimants' anticipated arguments. Worse, between individual claimants whose only interest is the education of their children, and a company which is part of a big conglomerate like you, a judge will likely find in favor of the former due to the perception that they are the underdog," she said.

Villaraza law firm

In any event, PPI did not take the advice and apparently found a more compliant counsel, which press reports had identified as the influential Villaraza and Angangco law firm.

In the first week of April, PPI went to the Makati court asking it to order a suspension of payments and approve its plan for rehabilitation, saying the deregulation of tuition rates and the unfavorable business climate had caused liquidity problems for the firm.

PPI said it would not be able to meet its tuition obligations to plan holders estimated to reach P350 million for the May to June 2005 enrollment period alone, and it did not have enough funds to pay for future obligations, either.

This expected difficulty in meeting future obligations forced it to file the petition for rehabilitation, it said.

Judge from The Firm

On April 13, Makati Judge Romeo Barza issued a stay order that effectively froze all PPI payments to its creditors, suppliers and plan holders until the company was rehabilitated, that is, restored to good health.

Barza was a founding partner of the Villaraza law firm but left in the early 1980s to put up his own practice.

PPI plan holders, organized under the Parents Enabling Parents Coalition (PEP Coalition) last Friday filed with the court its opposition to the rehabilitation plan, saying the liquidity problem of the company, the ostensible reason for the rehab petition, had been "fraudulently self-engineered and artificially contrived."

They said the assets, which should have been used to pay their claims, had been "spirited out" of the company just before it filed for rehabilitation to hide them from the claims of creditors—the plan holders.

As the government watchdog body that oversees pre-need companies, the SEC has come in for much criticism over the troubles besetting the pre-need industry.

Industry insiders say the commission tends to be liberal in its interpretation of the rules, "even if there was already suspicion they don't do anything."

But even if an SEC examiner has strong suspicions, for instance, of padding of assets or lapses in shareholders' management of a firm's affairs, he or she is not likely to do anything "if there was pressure and influence at work," an industry source said.

A SEC official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the commission was actually taken by surprise by PPI's going to court for suspension of payments and rehabilitation.

SEC surprised

"We were surprised. We didn't expect this. The company's officials had been dealing with us almost on a daily basis. Little did we know they had these plans," the official said.

The official said they knew there was trouble brewing at PPI, "but we saw they were doing something about it ... (that's why) we approved the reorganization and the spin-off."

SEC secretary Gerard Lukban said that from PPI's presentation, "we saw that the spin-off [of assets] was for the protection of the plan holders and it did not violate any rules. We saw that it was a fair segregation based on the ratio of contributors."

As of December 2003, according to financial statements it submitted to the SEC, PPI was in reasonable financial health. It had trust fund assets of P11.2 billion, consisting mostly of dollar-denominated government bonds maturing in 2010.

Against this was an actuarial reserve liability (ARL) of P10.2 billion.

By December 2004, after the assets transfer, PPI's trust fund assets were P3.3 billion, and ARL stood at P2.6 billion.

A pre-need firm is required to maintain a trust fund, an asset account in which it makes deposits from the payments of plan holders and investments to provide sufficient funds to pay for future obligations.

The ARL is a liability account that approximates the value of all obligations of a pre-need company to its plan holders. It is computed using assumptions on interest, tuition and inflation rates, and the anticipated earnings of investments.

The SEC requires that the trust fund should not be less than the ARL.

(Part 2: PPI problems stem from pre-need industry's inherent weaknesses)

Fat cat gets . . .

From page A1

ernment Service Insurance System president and general manager Winston Garcia is now receiving P200,000 a month—down by P160,000 (or 45 percent) monthly from his initial compensation package of P360,000 in 2001.

According to a source in Garcia's office who asked not to be named, the current pay of the man who heads what Ms Arroyo has described as the most profitable government corporation is less than half the average compensation (at least P450,000 a month) of presidents and chief executive officers of the Philippines' top private banks.

The source said Garcia might have taken one of the biggest pay cuts, if not the biggest, among government executives, "although we have no data to make comparisons."

Separate account

In a press statement, Garcia said P59,723 had been cut from his monthly compensation package in compliance with Memorandum Order No. 20.

The order calls for the rationalization of the compensation of heads of government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs) beginning in July 2001, or a few months after his appointment as GSIS head.

He took a second and bigger pay cut of P100,000 a month starting in October last year, after the President reiterated her call for a stop to excessive salaries and perks for GOCC executives.

Garcia kept the pay cuts in a separate account, but he said this was because his request for advice from then Finance Secretaries Jose Isidro Camacho and Juanita Amatong on where to put the money had gone unanswered.

With Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin publicly questioning his "unusual" scheme, Garcia said he turned over a manager's check for P3.287 million (representing his total pay cuts in the last 45 months) to the state pension fund last Friday.

He said he would continue to draw his trimmed-down paycheck and remit the savings of P160,000 a month directly to the GSIS fund.

Survivor

Garcia has survived a barrage of criticism regarding his management and alleged abuse of office in his four years as GSIS head, mainly because of Ms Arroyo's unwavering support.

Last Friday, the President reaffirmed that support, saying that while Garcia may not be perfect, the state pension fund earned P35 billion under his watch.

But Garcia has had to let go of his sister, Farla Carolyn Empemano, who will serve as his special assistant only until the end of the month.

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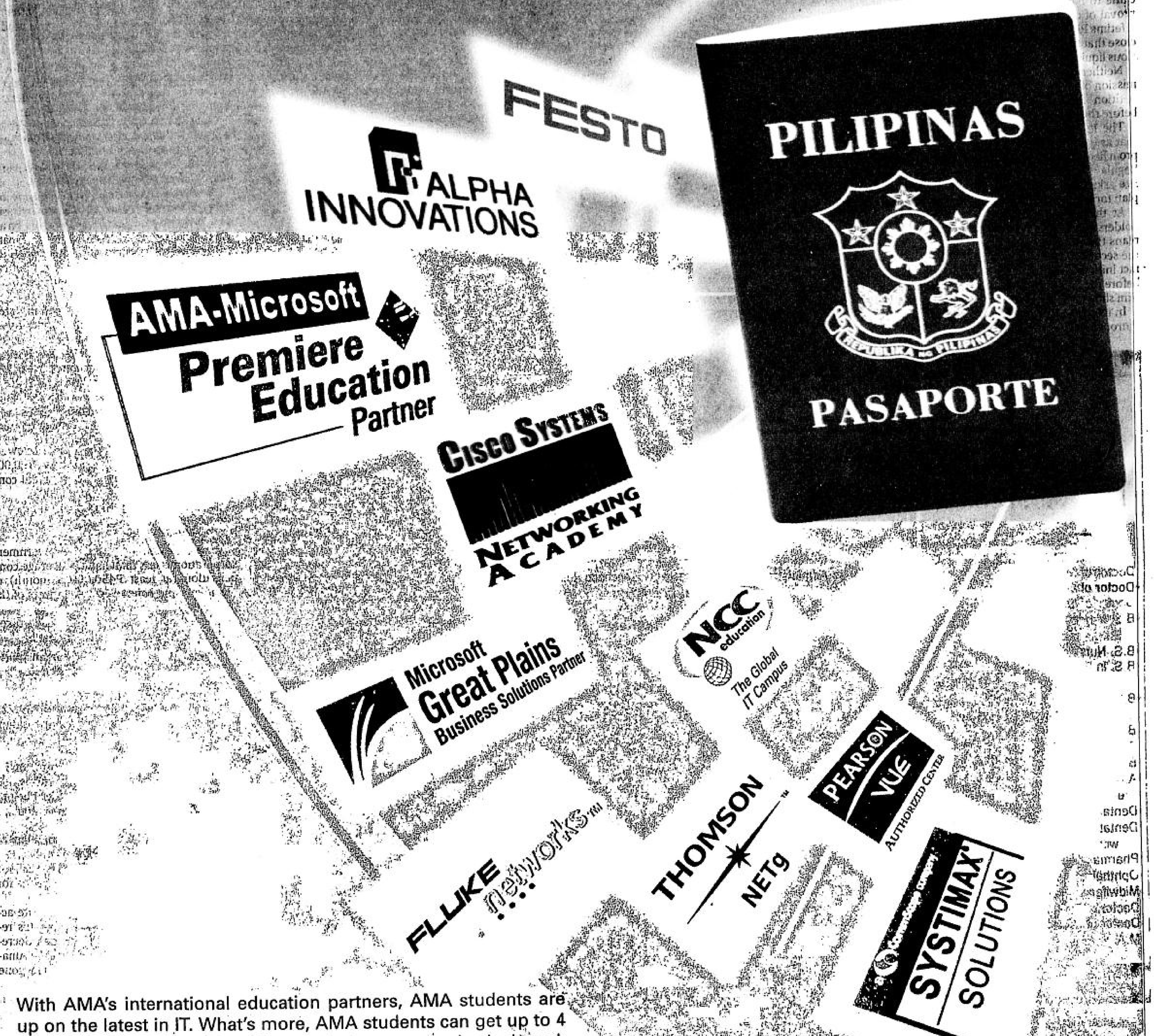
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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Turmoil in Uzbek town leaves 200 dead

ANDIJAN, Uzbekistan—Residents in the Uzbek city of Andijan said Saturday they had seen as many as 200 people killed in a crackdown by security forces against armed rebels and crowds of protestors.

"I have seen 200 bodies. It's a real war," Abdul-Vakhid Gasurov said.

Another resident, who only gave his first name, Bakhodir, claimed to have seen more than 300 bodies near the mayor's office. "Everything is covered in blood," he said.

The reports could not be independently confirmed and access to the main hospital was blocked by armed guards.

Russia's Interfax news agency quoted the head of an Uzbek human rights group, Apelyatsiya, as saying that the authorities had shipped out large numbers of bodies in trucks.

"This morning at dawn the bodies of the dead were taken out in five vehicles—three Zil trucks, one Ural and one bus. They were all full with bodies," Saidzhakhon Zainabitdinov said.

An AFP correspondent saw 20 to 30 bodies of men, both young and old, lying near each other outside a cinema in the center and another 20 bodies covered in sheets on the main square.

Earlier a doctor at Andijan's central hospital said "there are at least 50 dead" and 96 wounded.

A crowd of up 2,000 people gathered in the center of Andizhan on Saturday, a day after troops fired on protesters and rebels, killing dozens, a pro-opposition reporter said.

Amid fears of more bloodshed, security services gave foreign journalists 30 minutes to leave the city, saying they could not vouch for their safety in the town in the east of the Ferghana Valley, seen as a hotbed of Muslim extremists by the government.

The protesters, some of them calling for long-serving President Islam Karimov to stand down, had gathered on Friday after the rebels freed inmates from a local prison, including 23 businessmen on trial on religious extremism charges.

Alexei Volosevich, a reporter for the pro-opposition website www.ferghana.ru, said by telephone from the town square, where rebels had seized a government building, that he could see dozens of corpses.

The violence in Uzbekistan follows unrest in neighboring Kyrgyzstan where violent protests—which started in the town of Osh just across the border from Andizhan—led to the ousting of President Askar Akayev, who fled to Moscow.

In the past 18 months, there have also been "bloodless revolutions" in two other ex-Soviet republics, Ukraine and Georgia, both of which installed Western-leaning leaders.

Central Asia's leaders have reacted by clamping down further on dissent.

Craig Murray, Britain's former ambassador to Tashkent, resigned after accusing Britain and the United States of using intelligence gained under torture in Uzbek jails. He said he feared more violence in Andizhan on Saturday.

"Repression is basically the policy of the Uzbek government and this will be quite brutally suppressed, I fear," he told BBC World television.

There were also signs of trouble spreading through the densely populated Ferghana Valley, home to nearly a quarter of all Uzbeks, as 500 refugees fled across the closed border to Kyrgyzstan, a Kyrgyzstan border guard spokesperson said.

Uzbekistan, a Central Asian country bordering Afghanistan, offered the United States use of a military air base after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on US cities and has become an ally in Washington's war on terrorism.

The country is one of the world's leading cotton exporters, is a gold producer, and has some oil and gas reserves. But it has deterred investment with a barely reformed economy.

The West has criticized Karimov, in power since 1989 when Uzbekistan was a Soviet republic, for human rights abuses. *AFP, Reuters*

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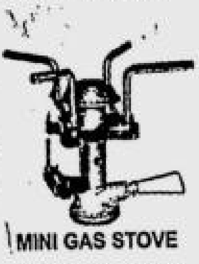

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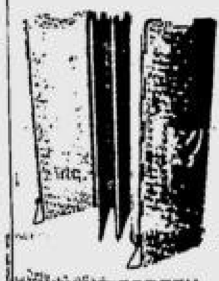

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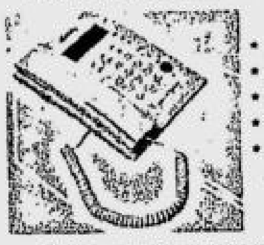

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Somewhere between insomnia and breakfast.

The phone rang and a hand found its way out from under the sheets, groping for the receiver. "Hi Charisse!" said a voice too cheerful to sound like 4AM. Charisse cleared her throat underneath the pillow and put on her smiley voice. "Good morning Mrs. Villa. How may I help you?"

For the next twenty minutes, Mrs. Villa discussed her finances, the status of her accounts, the latest rates, how her portfolio was doing. Charisse, wide awake now, jotted down notes, and responded equally quick. "Yes, Mrs. Villa. Of course we'll do that." Or alternately "I'll get back to you on that as soon as I check some figures."

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Or at least what passed as such for Mrs. Villa, a certified insomniac. Charisse was used to it by now and was recognized, jokingly, as the bank's Banking In Bed specialist. And in some strange way, had grown to like the early morning talks. It got her up early. And always gave her time for breakfast.

"Oh, and Charisse, I have no idea where to find a prom date for Julie. Do you think you could help me out with that, too?"

"Julie's a pretty girl, Mrs. Villa. I'd worry more about her dress than her date."

"You're right of course. Did you get the instructions I left yesterday? The one about the time deposit?"

"Yes ma'am. Our messenger picked it up first thing yesterday."

"Hay naku. I wouldn't know what to do without you, Charisse."

"It's no problem at all, Mrs. Villa. No problem at all." The conversation had wound down to stretch marks and the quest for wrinkle prevention when a stifled yawn came from Mrs. Villa's end of the line.

"Sounds like you need to get some rest, Mrs. Villa. And I need to start getting ready for work anyway."

"Of course. Sorry I talk so much. You have a good day, Charisse. Good morning!"

"And good night to you, Mrs. Villa."

Charisse stretched, smiled, and figured it would be a sinangag and danggit kind of day.

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Pope opens sainthood process for John Paul II

ROME—Pope Benedict XVI said he had authorized the start of the possible sainthood process for Pope John Paul II, overriding the usual five-year waiting period following the death of a candidate before beatification procedures can begin.

Benedict made the announcement in Latin during a meeting Friday at the Basilica of St. John Lateran with the Roman clergy. Friday is the anniversary of the 1981 assassination attempt on John Paul in St. Peter's Square at the hands of a Turkish gunman.

The announcement opens the way for the possible beatification and canonization of John Paul, following an investigation into the late pope's life and approval of miracles attributed to him. One miracle is required for John Paul to be beatified, a second one for him to be declared a saint.

Immediately following Pope John Paul's death on April 2, there were calls from faithful for him to be declared a saint. At his funeral Mass, pilgrims chanted "Santo Santo!" and held up banners saying "Santo Subito" ("Immediate Sainthood").

Benedict's announcement drew a standing ovation from the Roman priests.

The Pope read a letter in which the official who heads the Vatican's Congregation for the Causes of Saints, Cardinal Jose Saraiva Martins, announced that Benedict himself had waived the five-year waiting period for John Paul's possible sainthood cause to begin.

"And now I have a very joyous piece of news for you," Benedict said in Italian before reading the letter, which was signed May 9.

Benedict, who had been seated, stood up to join the clergy in applauding the major tribute to his predecessor.

PICTURE dated Oct. 18, 2003 shows Pope John Paul II (right) saluting next to German Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, now Pope Benedict XVI, at the Vatican audience hall. AFP

John Paul himself lifted the five-year waiting period for the beatification procedures to begin for Mother Teresa, the nun who dedicated her life to caring for India's poorest people.

He launched the beatification process a year after Mother Teresa's 1997 death. Mother Teresa was beatified in October 2003.

Vatican officials said Benedict's announcement dispenses with the five-year wait without reservations, but gives no time element for John Paul's possible beatification and does not do away with requirements including the investigation of the late pope's life and the approval of a miracle.

Monsignor Gianfranco Bella, the official who is responsible for actually starting John Paul's beatification cause, said in an interview Friday that the process of gathering documents and contacting witnesses hadn't yet begun but that he hoped to start it "as soon as possible."

"But things have to be done well. They can't be rushed through," said Bella, who as the judicial vicar for the ordinary tribunal in the diocese of Rome is responsible for launching beatification processes for popes.

He called Benedict's announcement "wonderful," and suggested approving a miracle wouldn't prove too difficult.

"Certainly he had many gifts, and touched so many people," he said. "Even the conversion of one person is a miracle."

Following John Paul's death, Italian newspapers were rife with reports of alleged miracles attributed to him. But the reports stemmed from inexplicable cures that occurred while John Paul was still alive, while according to Vatican procedures, a miracle has to have occurred after John Paul's death for it to be considered in the saint-making process.

The Rev. Peter Gumpel, who is spearheading the beatification cause for another pope, Pius XII, said Friday that it would still be several years before John Paul could possibly be beatified. *AP*

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Protests spread across Muslim world over Koran

KABUL—Angry protests raged across the Muslim world from Indonesia to Gaza on Friday over a report that US interrogators at Guantanamo Bay had desecrated the Koran, with calls for retaliation and a rising death toll.

In Afghanistan, at least nine people were killed on Friday, in protests over the report bringing the country's death toll to 16 this week in its worst anti-American demonstrations since the fall of the Taliban.

Washington sought to stem Muslim anger as allies demanded investigations and thousands took to the streets in outrage over the Newsweek magazine report that interrogators at the US military prison in Cuba had put the Muslim holy book on a toilet and at least once flushed it down.

The unrest spread to Pakistan, which called for a US probe. Hundreds of people held a peaceful protest in Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation.

In Gaza, several thousand Palestinians marched through a refugee camp in a protest organized by the Islamic militant group Hamas. Several hundred Palestinians also marched in the West Bank city of Hebron.

"The Holy Koran was defiled by the dirtiest of hands, by American hands," a protester shouted at the Jabalya refugee camp in Gaza, where US and Israeli flags were also burned.

The escalating violence prompted the Bush administration to express sympathy with the demonstrators and urge calm.

"We want Muslims around the world to know that we share and understand the concerns that they have. We are also saddened about the loss of life because of these demonstrations turning violent," White House spokesperson Scott McClellan said.

The Department of Defense is investigating the allegation and "they take such allegations very seriously," he said, but did indicate when the investigation would be completed.

"... We will not tolerate any disrespect for the holy Koran," he added.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice had also urged Muslims on Thursday to resist calls for violence, saying US military authorities were investigating the Koran allegations and calling disrespect to the holy book "abhorrent to us all."

Muslims consider the Koran the literal word of God, treating each book with deep reverence, and the episode has embarrassed the United States, which has sought closer ties with Muslim allies as it wages its war on terrorism.

In Afghanistan and Pakistan, desecration of the Koran is punishable by death. *Reuters*

WORLDBRIEFS

Drone plane kills terrorist

WASHINGTON—An al-Qaida leader from Yemen was killed this week by a missile fired by an unmanned CIA Predator plane in a mountain region of Pakistan close to the border with Afghanistan, US media reported Friday. Haitham al-Yemeni had been under surveillance by the US Central Intelligence Agency as it sought information in the hunt for Osama bin Laden, mastermind of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States, ABC and NBC televisions said. After the recent capture of Abu Faraj al-Libbi in Pakistan, al-Yemeni was considered al-Qaida's number three leader, the report said. *AFP*

Bird flu in pigs

JAKARTA—Indonesian researchers have found a strain of bird flu in pigs on the densely populated island of Java, raising fears the virus could more easily spread to humans in the country, the government and scientists said Saturday. C.A. Nidom, the scientist who made the discovery, identified the strain found in the pigs as H5N1, which has jumped from chickens to humans elsewhere in Southeast Asia, killing 36 in Vietnam, 12 in Thailand and four from Cambodia. Pigs, which are genetically similar to people, often carry the human influenza virus. Experts worry that pigs infected with both bird flu and its human equivalent could act as a "mixing bowl," resulting in a more dangerous, mutant virus that might spread to people more easily—and then from person to person. They fear that could fuel a devastating flu outbreak, vastly exceeding the current annual death toll from human influenza, which kills 500,000 to 1 million people around the world each year. *AP*

If previous pages caused hyperacidity, this page can take it out

Stress, a big contributor to Hyperacidity

By KATRINA PRIMAVERA

NO NEWS is good news. Distressing current events may not only cause your blood pressure to shoot up but it may also be a reason for your acids to act up. Stress is but one of the many factors that contribute to hyperacidity. Smoking, physical exertion, irregular eating habits, dramatic weight gain, lying down too soon after a meal and pregnancy hormones are also common causes of a hyperacidity attack. Hyperacidity happens when there is an excessive secretion of acid in the stomach. It is not a disease but rather a collection of symptoms, including discomfort or burning in the upper abdomen which may also cause nausea. For relief from these discomforts, the most common over-the-counter remedy is an antacid.

Different terms and varying degrees of hyperacidity

HYPERACIDITY, locally known as *pangangasim ng sikmura*, is the excessive secretion of hydrochloric acid in the stomach. This imbalance causes a burning sensation or a slight churning in the stomach, which could also involve the esophagus and part of the small intestines.

Peptic ULCERS: refer to actual open sores or "wounds" in the inner lining of the stomach or small intestine or esophagus. Many ulcers result in a gnawing pain in the stomach and are caused by a bacteria called H. pylori. Other causes or factors which may aggravate ulcers include long term use of certain pain relievers, smoking, excessive alcohol consumption and stress. While over-the-counter medications may relieve the pain of ulcers, a doctor should be consulted so that proper treatment directed at healing the ulcer can be started.

INDIGESTION ("dyspepsia"). This is a general term often used to describe a collection of uncomfortable abdominal symptoms which often occur after eating. The cause of indigestion can't be attributed to one particular thing and is often times not serious. This includes discomfort or burning in the upper abdomen, nausea and a bloated feeling that belching may relieve. This can stem from a temporary problem such as overeating or a stressful event rather than relating it to a disease. It is a common disorder of the upper gastrointestinal system which includes the esophagus, stomach and the first part of the small intestine. The proper diet, exercise, stress management and anti-acid medications can all help with the symptoms.

HEARTBURN. When the lower sphincter valve of the esophagus relaxes or is weak, stomach acid can flow back up into the esophagus and irritate the esophagus resulting in "heartburn". The sensation is similar to regurgitation while experiencing a sour taste in the mouth and leaving a burning sensation behind the breastbone. Acid regurgitation or reflux can even cause hoarseness of the voice , coughing, and worsening of asthma.

TREATMENT. For quick acid neutralization, New Mylanta Rolltabs (CALCIUM CARBONATE + MAGNESIUM HYDROXIDE). Mylanta Rolltabs comes in chewable and great tasting flavors to aid in the rapid neutralization of acid to start relief in seconds. It's portable and comes in different flavors giving you sweet relief in no time, anytime. Don't forget to consult your doctor if symptoms persist, are severe, or keep recurring. Some of the things which may aggravate or result in heartburn: Stress, smoking, tight clothing, physical exertion, weight gain, lying down too soon after a meal and pregnancy.

Hyperacidity Tales

" I love coffee. I used to have 7-10 cups a day. Thing is with coffee, I would lose my appetite and end up skipping meals so I would get the worst hyperacidity attacks. I would feel as if there was this big ball burning inside my tummy."
-Paul, 25

"Grabe ang hyperacidity ko. Pasulpot sulpot na lang. Para sa akin dumarating na lang yan ng walang warning. May isang beses naglalakad lang ako sa daan tapos may naramdaman akong sakit na biglaan sa tiyan. Ang tindi at ang lakas ng tama, napaupo ako sa daan bigla." -Lawrence, 24

"Ang pinakamatindi kong hyperacidity attack ay nung kumain ako ng manggang hilaw sa umaga. Hindi pa ako nag-aalmusal, so wala pang laman tiyan ko. Ay ang sakit talaga."
-Mia, 24

" Hyperacidity is such a hassle. The worst part about it is that you never know when it's gonna hit you. There was this one time I was out with my girl friends and started getting spasms in my stomach. At first, I thought it was just gas or something I ate but the pain got worse as I was having my drinks. So not only did I have to pass up on the drinks, the pain became unbearable so I went home and missed out on what would have been a perfectly good night out." -Karen, 35

"I would get acidic once in a while but for some reason, it's more frequent and more intense during exam week. Things are a little bit more busy at that time. I like to go out kasi. Hanging with the boys and spending time with my girlfriend so tendency is for me to study last minute. I think the

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CONT...

cramming and the pressure just aggravates my hyperacidity. Stress, you know?" -Joey 17,

"Hindi ako familiar sa mga sakit na ganyan. Basta iniisip ko lagi, lilipas lang yan. Pero may isang beses na nakaranas ako ng sakit sa tiyan. Ay, kakaiba talaga. Hindi ko siya maipinta. Parang may mainit at mahapding bulateng umiikot sa loob ng tiyan ko. Sinubukan kong itulog pero sa tindi ng sakit, hindi ako makatulog. Akala ko nagkaka-dysmenorrhea na ko , pero sus, hyperacidity pala siya"
-Tiffany, 24

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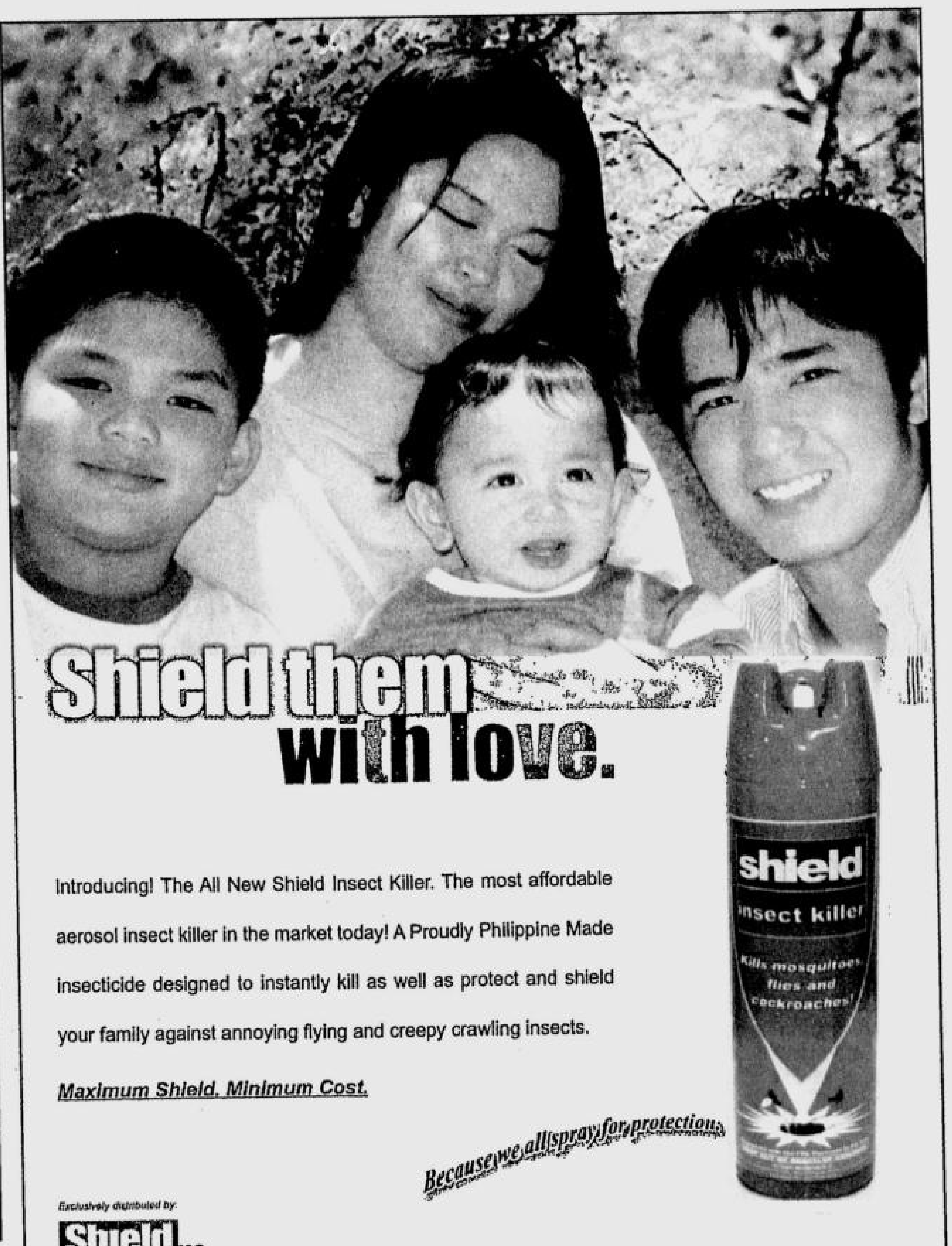
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Higher-education lows

EDITORIAL

THE RESIGNATION of the Dominican educator, Fr. Rolando V. De la Rosa, O.P., as chair of the Commission on Higher Education shows how the tentacles of petty politics and nepotism have reached higher education, choking it of the feeblest striving toward excellence, pulling it down to the level of the middling, the mediocre and the meretricious.

Father De la Rosa resigned after failing to get the support of Malaçañang and Congress in reforming the education system. Instead of backing the Commission's crackdown on substandard nursing schools, several representatives, led by Rep. Cynthia Villar (Las Piñas), the chair of the House committee on education, pressured him to reopen 23 nursing schools across the country. The schools had been ordered closed for poor performance in board examinations and for failing to comply with the minimum requirement to have a base tertiary hospital where students could have hands-on training.

In meetings with the CHEd, Villar—whose husband, Sen. Manny Villar, has presidential ambitions—hardly showed the comportment of a legislator, much less of an educated woman, in demanding that the closure order be lifted. When her group of lawmakers was informed that the campaign against poor performing nursing schools is mandated by the Nursing Law that Congress had passed only two years ago, one lawmaker shamelessly exclaimed, "Then let us abolish that law!"

If De la Rosa had expected he would get support from Malacañang against such pack of malevolent and "mal-educated" lawmakers, he was wrong. The AMA computer school staved off the closure of its nursing school by going to Malacañang, where it got an order directing De la Rosa and his commissioners to explain the closure. In effect, Malacañang rebuffed the CHEd and stayed the closure.

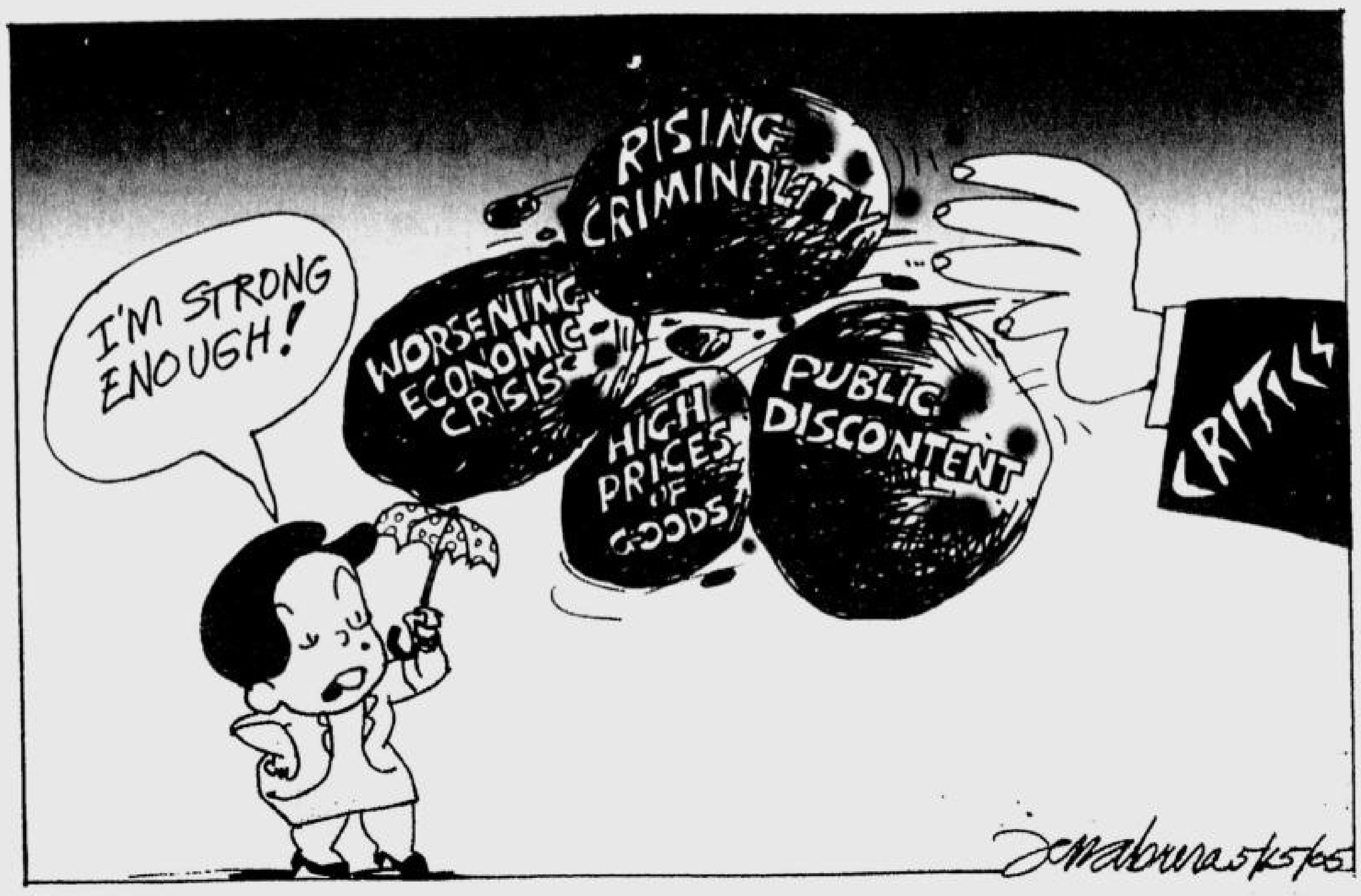
How computer and nursing schools have achieved political clout despite their poor performance in electronic communication engineering and in nursing board exams should show how educational franchises and profit-oriented schools have built up their resources by packing their classrooms with enrollees, without the least provision for student selectivity and quality standard—indeed, without the least investment in campus infrastructure and pedagogical facilities. Some schools appears to have shored up their position by getting cozy with politicians in Congress and Malacañang.

It is these same politicians who have made a merry cottage industry out of establishing state colleges and universities (SCUs) and local colleges and universities (LCUs). The proliferation of these SCUs and LCUs has invited a comment from the British Council that the Philippines has too many colleges and universities. While it is true that these schools provide people greater access to education, the truth is that many SCUs and LCUs have been established to cash in on public works funds.

These colleges and universities are also packed with political appointees that have made them dens of nepotism. Moreover, these schools have charters created by law so that they can insist that their programs are beyond the supervision of CHEd. Sen. Juan Flavier has called for a moratorium on the establishment of new SCUs and LCUs, but the resignation of De la Rosa should indicate that our politicians would continue to set up schools for parochial interests and self-aggrandizement.

What picture are we getting here? Politics is destroying higher education. Politicians and bureaucrats have already destroyed basic education—that is obvious in the annual litany of class-opening problems, such as the lack of teachers, classrooms and books, which provide petty politicos and greedy bureaucrats with the alibi to dip into the public coffers and spend resources, leaving them enough room for kickbacks. This state of affairs has perennially saddled our basic education with issues of quantity, not quality, so that we are producing graduates who hardly have the rudimentary qualification for college.

Now, politicians and bureaucrats are set to complete the sweep. After destroying basic education, they seek to infect higher education with the virus of commercialism and academic philistinism. Father De la Rosa, a former rector magnificus of the University of Sto. Tomas and Colegio de San Juan de Letran in Calamba, saw the writing on the wall and would have none of it. He said he would rather go back to his "priestly and religious duties" than compromise his principles as an educator and an academic manager. Perhaps, back in the peace of his Dominican monastery, he could pray and exorcise the demons of politics and greed that are killing Philippine higher education.



'Lupang Hinirang'

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

MY SON Celso related to me a disturbing incident that he felt ought to be reported in this column. I am reporting it now in hopes that it will also disturb readers like you with whom, I am sure, we share a social conscience.

On April 29, he and his wife Alma went to the Duty-Free Shop in Parañaque. As it was still closed at the time, they stayed at the canteen where a number of people were also waiting. At 8:45 a.m., the public address system announced that the National Anthem was going to be played before the opening of the store. Dutifully and out of respect for the solemn hymn, Celso and Alma stood up, expecting others to do the same.

Surprisingly, however, no one else did. Some thirty of the waiting people remained seated and many of them continued eating. They chatted with each other while the anthem was being sung. The ceremony meant absolutely nothing to them unless it was at least a minor irritation to be patiently ignored and tolerated while they were finishing their breakfast. Some of them probably would have preferred a popular tune familiar to them and more agreeable to their taste. A popular vocalist warbling a mindless ditty would have been more welcome.

My son was shocked by the indifference of the seated persons and urged them to rise and honor the National Anthem. But they did not respond. They just looked at him, not with hostility but probably with amusement or puzzlement over his needless annoyance. They probably thought they were doing nothing wrong and minding their own business, which my son should also do, and relax. It was when the anthem finally ended that they decided it was time for them to stand up to go to the shop.

Celso says that he then approached the security guard and asked why he did not require the seated people to rise when the National Anthem was being played. The man replied that he was only a guard. He had tried to do this on previous occasions but was rebuffed, sometimes even angrily. Celso said it was his duty as a guard to maintain order in the premises but he said no one was causing any disorder. Disrespect for our National Anthem was rank disorder, my son said, but the guard merely shrugged and said as if to excuse himself, *"Wala po akong magawa. Talaga pong ganyan ang Pilipino."*

"I could not do anything, sir," he said. "Filipinos are really like that." Disgusting and despicable and cheap? No, sir! Filipinos are not really like that! Filipinos do not disdain those things that symbolize the highest and the best about our country like the Filipino flag and our National Anthem. The majority of our people are unlike those contemptible so-called citizens in that canteen who could not even bother to stand up while the song of our Republic was being sung.

Celso complained to an employee of the Duty-Free Shop who said he would report the matter to the management of the store. Let's wait and see what will happen. Coincidentally, when he and his wife went that same day to a moviehouse at SM Southmall, they encountered the same outrage to the National Anthem. As it was being played preparatory to the screening of the show, Celso and Alma again rose along with other respectful citizens. But as in the Duty-Free canteen, a number of couples, this time loving and not eating, stayed seated holding each other and oblivious to anything else. It was romantic but hardly patriotic.

I had a similar experience once but the offenders were a foreign couple. They remained seated when our National Anthem started to play, but when I shouted at them to stand up they did. They evidently wanted to avoid any unpleasantness. They were at least readily penitent than those fellow citizens of ours who had no compunction in exhibiting their contempt for our National Anthem and most likely also for the Philippine flag. They probably believed that their very nationality provided them with immunity from punishment for dishonoring the highest hallmarks of our Republic and displaying their disgust for the Republic itself.

The present generation does not seem to have the same devotion to country that we, as children, learned from our parents and teachers. At home and in school before the war, we were taught to love the Philippines as the land of our birth and "the child of the sun returning" as the English lyrics of the anthem then proclaimed. The soldiers who fought in Bataan must have gathered strength and courage from the strains of that sacred song as they resisted the alien invader, many of them to death.

Some may say that our anthem is not as martial as the Star Spangled Banner of the Americans or the Marseillaise of France to whip the blood to thoughts of glory. The Filipinos are not a bellicose people. Our "Lupang Hinirang" sings of peace, the beauty of our hills and seas and the azure skies, and the treasured liberty we will defend with our very lives. We should all rise to hear those gallant words.

Change

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY is about a wife who opened the front door and, behold, her mother-in-law was on the front porch, asking, "Can I stay here for a few days?" "Of course, you can stay there," was her response, and then she shut the door.

* * *

Today is Pentecost Sunday. In today's Gospel (Jn. 20, 19-23), the Lord gives His Holy Spirit to His disciples, along with His greeting "Peace be with you." You know why we don't have peace in our hearts? You know why there is no peace in your families, in our country, and in the world? That's because we shut the door on the Holy Spirit.

* * *

I don't know what happened, but my column last Sunday, Ascension Sunday, "ascended" into thin air. "Computer glitch" so was I told. Was I upset? Yes, for a while, I must admit, considering the effort I put into it. It was also the first time in five years that this happened. But, after a moment of prayer, continuously saying "Come Holy Spirit," I was at peace with the thought that there is a reason for everything that happens in our lives. So be it. Amen.

* * *

"Peace be with you!" The thought that there is a greater power, that there is Someone in control, that there is a "big picture" is very assuring. May we all be reminded again that a tremendous gift has been given to us. Too bad many of us belittle, take for granted—if not altogether ignore—the gift of the Holy Spirit Who is ready and available for us anytime and with Whom there is no "computer glitch."

* * *

We all need the Holy Spirit for a real change of heart, beginning with those who lead us, precisely because they themselves are powerful agents of change. They who are in powerful positions have in their possession a tremendous responsibility toward the people whom they serve. Too engrossed in their positions and possessions, and their commissions, they have, sad to say, forgotten their mission.

* * *

Speaking of change, perhaps the lowly diaper could teach our leaders a lesson or two. First of all, they must remain lowly. Like the diaper, they must protect, serve, and give comfort. I look around and there are many leaders who are bleeders. They bleed our people. They rule not by any principle or creed, but by pure simple greed. As someone put it, many of our leaders are diapers who are full of s___t, and who stink. No amount of PR and publicity can deodorize them. They must have a change of heart by the power of the Holy Spirit. If that does not happen, they should be changed. That is the other thing which our leaders should learn from the lowly diaper—they are disposable. They are not indispensable.

* * *

Pentecost goes on. In every age and time, God raises prophets who speak on God's behalf, pointing out what is not right, and what should be changed. Let's call them diaper watchers or diaper busters. Archbishop Oscar Cruz is one such person in his lonely and scary crusade against *jueteng*. Likewise, we have prophets in the likes of Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez, Bishop Antonio Tobias, and Bishop Julio Labayen who are not afraid in their crusade for good governance, and whose mouths cannot be muffled by money, favor or patronage. Let us pray that there will be more prophets in our midst who will help bring about a national diaper change.

* * *

We pay tribute to the late Ka Luis Taruc, who till the very end was a true prophet, a real diaper-watcher and diaper-buster. This man had passion and compassion for his country and for his people, something that has become just an incidental to many of our so-called national leaders. I consider it a privilege to have met him through my friend Dik Trofeo, and to have administered to him the sacrament of the sick. He sacrificed a lot, as in a lot, for his country. May our leaders never forget the most important element of public service—sacrifice. Look around you. Are we being served by self-sacrificing leaders? There can be no real change without sacrifice from all of us, starting especially from our leaders.

* * *

Not Abat idea. Personalities and technicalities aside, the idea of retired general Fortunato Abat is not his idea alone. Don't we all want change, unity, peace and progress? Don't we all hope and aspire for a better Philippines? Don't we all wish for a new Pentecost in our day and time? How to achieve this is debatable, but we must continue to listen to prophets in our midst, who point us to the road of righteousness and sacrifice toward greater heights and broader horizons.

* * *

Whenever Sonie de la Cruz went to visit our Lady of Manaoag to ask for the healing of her husband Elmo who had a stage 4 cancer, she always heard Mama Mary's motherly assurance, "Don't worry, my child." And, she always ended with "Thanks for your visit my child!" She is grateful! May we not forget that amid the many changes and happening in our lives, we have a loving Mother who sees, who loves, and who watches over us. She was there on the first Pentecost. She will lead us into a new Pentecost.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, change us, mold us, and use us to become agents of change. Amen.

The AFP—an intensive care patient

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

WHEN a patient is admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU) of any hospital, it could mean that his or her condition requires close and constant supervision by medical personnel on a 24-hour basis. He or she could also be recovering from major surgery as I had experienced after a heart bypass operation many years ago. Being confined to an ICU indicates the seriousness of the problem being faced by an individual.

Last week, Time magazine came out with a special report on the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Written by Time executive editor for Asia, Anthony Spaeth (with reports from correspondents Susan B. Donnelly and Nelly Sindayen), the article notes that "the Philippine military, fighting low morale, poor equipment and stubborn militants," is badly in need of intensive care. For one whose roots and sympathies lie with the armed forces, it is a depressing and disheartening narrative. Unfortunately, much of what is written there cannot be disputed and, perhaps, even more painful is the fact that some of the difficulties that beset the military organization, as noted in the article, are the result of a political leadership which failed or refused to appreciate the importance of simple management principles in the exercise of authority over the institution.

Spaeth writes that "Underfunded and distractedly run—President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is on her sixth chief of staff in four years—the AFP are working at less than 50 percent of their capacity, according to Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz." As we all know, just before the last elections, the nation witnessed change-of-command ceremonies installing chiefs of staff, one after another, with some serving for as short as three months in a revolving-door scenario. For candidate GMA, the post of chief of staff was apparently used to further her political goals rather than to raise the professional levels and operational effectiveness of the armed forces. Next month, we will again see another change in the AFP leadership as Gen. Efren Abu bows out after barely eight months on the job.

For the record, let me point out that Abu is the only chief of staff to formally prohibit the discredited practice of conversion which has spawned much of the reported graft and corruption in the military. In a simple, straightforward manner, Abu directed that conversion will no longer be allowed in the AFP and that any commander who violates this order will be dealt with severely. (For those still unfamiliar with the term "conversion" as used in the AFP, it denotes the simulated purchase of military supplies to generate funds which are then diverted for other projects or private pockets.) The question is: Will this major reform policy be strictly carried out by his successor? As General Abu points out in the Time story, what is needed is continuity.

With regard to this issue of continuity, there appears to be a glimmer of hope on the horizon. The Senate recently passed legislation prescribing a fixed term of office for the AFP chief of staff. It provides for a tenure of three years commencing on the date of appointment by the President, regardless of the appointee's reaching the compulsory retirement age before the end of the three-year period. No extension of this term will be allowed except in cases of war or national emergencies as declared by Congress. Also, no officer shall be appointed to the position if he has less than one year of service left in the active list. This has been the work of Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, chair of the senate defense committee, along with Dick Gordon and others.

Now the ball is with the House defense committee led by Rep. Roy Golez. Let us hope that he can push through with the necessary action to get it on the President's desk for signature before the next chief of staff appointment comes up.

The Time report begins and ends with the tragic death of Lt. Colonel Dennis Villanueva, the commander of the 53rd Infantry battalion, Philippine Army, who was hit by enemy mortar fire in Jolo last February. It raises the question whether the mortar fire resulted in mortal wounds for the officer or "did Villanueva die because he failed to receive timely medical treatment?"

There are several opinions on this issue. The AFP has one, Villanueva's widow has another, and a battlefield colleague of Villanueva has his own version of what happened.

Time says: "Dennis Villanueva's life bled away in the helicopter and in the vehicles that brought him to Sulu Provincial Hospital. He served his country and his military well—better than they served him." Villanueva, a Philippine Military Academy graduate, Class of 1986, is the highest ranking AFP officer to die in combat in recent years.

* * *

Congratulations to Col. Juan "Johnny" M. Sanchez (PA ret.), who recently took his oath of office after being declared winner of the May 2004 mayoral elections in Lubang, Occidental Mindoro. Sanchez is a member of PMA Class of 1955. Unlike other office seekers whose election cases are still languishing in the courts and in the Commission on Elections, Johnny can count himself among the fortunate whose election was formalized before the expiration of his three-year term. He was the founding managing director of the National Computer Center and served as special assistant to the executive secretary to the President on information technology.

End of a saga

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

AT THE TIME "Star Wars" was released in 1977, computers had yet to become household items, women teetered around in platforms and clogs, and in the Philippines, "Betamax" was the preferred video format.

When the second of the "Star Wars" film franchise, "The Empire Strikes Back," burst into movie screens in 1980, MTV was a year away from creating a generation, big frizzy hair was all the fashion, and the country was still in the iron grip of martial law.

Three years later, "Return of the Jedi" was released. By this time, "Star Wars" had become part of the popular culture, creating a community of rabid fans who camped overnight in front of theaters just to be first in line, and who showed up dressed as "Star Wars" characters. The storyline also held personal and political significance for Pinoys, who saw in the victory of the ragtag rebel forces a hopeful sign of a similarly lopsided victory for the street parliamentarians protesting the assassination of Ninoy Aquino and dreaming of the dawning of democracy.

Eleven years after the "Star Wars" saga drew to a close, word filtered out that George Lucas was working on a series of three "prequels" which would flesh out the back story on how Anakin Skywalker, the most promising of the young Jedi knights and viewed by his teachers as "the chosen one," was seduced by the Dark Side and became Darth Vader. But the world—and film technology—was in an entirely different place by the time Episode 1, "The Phantom Menace," and Episode 2, "Attack of the Clones" were released in 1999 and 2002, 16 and 19 years after "Return of the Jedi." By then, personal computers had evolved into household appliances and indeed, telecommunications devices had become personal accessories. The World Wide Web had revolutionized the way people communicated and accessed information across borders. And advances in computer-generated imaging allowed filmmakers unprecedented range and dexterity.

* * *

ALSO, we moviegoers, who gasped as we watched the humongous Imperial Starcruiser crawl across the movie screen in "A New Hope," had become a jaded audience. We had gotten over the shock and awe of the special effects that Lucas served up in Episodes 4-6, and demanding of even more fantastic elements than those previously served up not just by the entire "Star Wars" series but also by such wannabes as "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," "ET," the "Superman" movies, and "The Matrix."

Perhaps, we had set ourselves up for disappointment. Sixteen years, after all, is a long time to wait, and in that interim, expectations can only build up to levels nearly impossible to meet. That may be part of the reason Episodes 1 and 2 were almost universally panned, though they were also quite talky, the action plodding, and the acting, especially in the romantic sequences, sappy and unconvincing.

So it was that as we got ready to receive the final prequel, Episode 3, "Revenge of the Sith," "Star Wars" fans nursed both eager anticipation as well as a heavy dread. Would this episode, the "Last Star Wars," as Time magazine put it, also prove to be a disappointment? Would it ruin our memories of "Star Wars," the film franchise that had been part of our lives for four decades?

Don't worry, there are no spoilers in this column. "Revenge of the Sith" has yet to show in Philippine theaters, and the morning after Thursday's press preview at Greenbelt 3, I got a text message asking me not to reveal crucial details, especially the identities of key characters. So, I'm holding off.

* * *

I FELT a sweet sadness and twinge of regret as Episode 3 drew to a close. My nephew Marty, whom we had dragged along (without too much protest, I note) to the preview, said that as the film approached its climax "I felt both excitement at seeing how it would all end, while wishing it would not yet end, because it would mean that 'Star Wars' is really over."

We were unusually quiet as we exited the theater. My daughter Miya, who is 19 and thus yet unborn when Episode 4 was released, summed up our feelings: "My childhood has come to an end."

"'The Empire Strikes Back' was the first movie I ever saw, it was on betamax and *kuya* was explaining it to me," she recalled. When the "Star Wars" movies were re-released for theatrical distribution after some refurbishing and editing, the family turned out again in full force, allowing my children to acquaint themselves with the full story of the modern cinematic myth.

* * *

CONSIDERING that Episode 4 was released in 1977, my husband and I must have first seen it while we were still dating. But it seems that ever since our son became old enough to be allowed into movie houses, watching a "Star Wars" movie, as well as that other Lucas franchise, the Indiana Jones series, had become an annual rite, almost a family ritual.

But even as we adults considered ourselves "Star Wars" connoisseurs and faithful fans, we have yet to measure up to our children's grasp of the material. Thanks to years of immersion in "Star Wars" arcana, from action figures and toy light sabers, to book spin-offs, comics, web sites and fan sites, and the cartoon series "The Clone Wars," they and their cousin can now name every "Star Wars" character—human, alien or technological—as well as guide us through the entire mythology.

Perhaps this explains why, even as we were told we would be getting an invite to a press preview, we still bought tickets for a special screening of "Revenge of the Sith" at 10 p.m. on the eve of the theatrical release on May 19. And judging from the brisk sales, *hindi kami nag-iisa*. We're looking forward to rubbing elbows with true believers, and mumbling out loud spoilers inside the theater, just for the fun of it!

Murder by other means

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

THE RECENT rash of media killings has had only local journalists as victims. There are two reasons for this. First, because, compared to those in the national media, local journalists are relatively little known and, therefore, more vulnerable to attack. Second, and perhaps more importantly, because the entities they expose by their writings tend to be less powerful, more insecure, and therefore more prone to use force. Hiring a killer, to them, is cheaper than hiring a lawyer; murder is the local thug's weapon of first choice.

Writers and publishers of the national media are no less subject to pressure from the powerful. But they are more capable of ignoring this pressure or standing up to it mainly because of the social power they themselves wield. Moreover, those they routinely displease tend to have more varied weapons at their disposal. The favored instruments for silencing journalists at the national level are money, appointment to cushy positions, economic pressure, lawsuits and dismissal from work. Murder is a last resort.

But whether accomplished by direct or subtle means, the object is the same: to still the voice of media. As a society becomes more corrupt, that voice also becomes more persistent and provocative. It is true that the exercise of media power is not always driven by pure motives. Indeed some journalists are in the business of investigating corruption for monetary gains. But this is not an argument for curbing media freedom; it is an argument for ending corruption.

The power of media probably represents our last hope for combating the culture of corruption that has engulfed our society. The powerful who are corrupt naturally seek to weaken this power. The way this is done at the national level is more subtle and seldom visible. It doesn't attract as much attention as the physical elimination of journalists. It is murder by other means; the effect is the same.

I suspect that media killings have risen in direct proportion to the growing brazenness of corruption in our country. The more open the corruption, the less afraid the killers are. The common denominator is impunity. No one trusts the government anymore to enforce the law as a matter of duty.

The gravity of the situation, however, seems lost on the public officials assigned to stop the killing of media people. They can't understand why the killing of journalists should merit so much public attention both here and abroad. "Not only journalists but other people are getting killed," says Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes. Policemen and soldiers are killed, he says, but hardly anyone notices or cares. He forgets that journalists are not armed precisely because, unlike the police or the military, killing or being killed is not something expected in the course of their work.

It is disturbing that Secretary Reyes seems bent on waging a campaign to diminish the meaning of the murder of journalists. He asks journalists to "police their own ranks," implying that not all of the slain media people were legitimate journalists, or were killed for reasons other than their work, and therefore their death should not be seen as an attack on media. "Who is a journalist?" the INQUIRER quotes him. "I consider journalism a profession that should pass certain criteria of competence, expertise or ethics. And a roster of real journalists should be maintained because not all attacks on journalists are assaults on press freedom." What kind of mindset is this?

By shifting the focus to the victims, the police comes close to exculpating the killers and blaming the victims. This same point of view is evident in the recommendations of the Philippine National Police Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management. One of the proposals coming from this office is to increase the penalty for libel. "Stiffer penalties will somehow assure high-profile personalities being victimized by irresponsible media broadcasting that commensurate punishment shall be accorded abusive members of the media."

The police theory is clear: Journalists who get murdered are either not "real" journalists, or are irresponsible and abusive in their reporting. They probably deserve to die. The people they offend should however be encouraged to consider filing libel suits as a substitute for murder.

No institution that is governed by this attitude can be expected to solve the killings of media people or to bring the perpetrators to justice. A basic distrust for media has kept the police from doing its work properly. The police has to outgrow this resentment if it is to be a force for democracy.

Journalists find themselves in the same position as the Chinese-Filipinos who are the favorite targets of kidnap-for-ransom gangs. Their killers ride on the dangerous and unexamined public belief that, all things considered, they morally deserve their fate. They tame the public outrage against the deed by impugning the moral integrity of the group to which the victims belong. When public authorities begin to adopt this line of thinking, we know we are on the verge of fascism.

(Comments to public.lives@gmail.com)

The 'M.D.-R.N. phenomenon'

COMMENTARY

Jun R. Ruiz, M.D.

MEDICINE is now becoming a pre-nursing course, giving rise to a new hybrid of professionals—the "M.D.-R.N." However, this is old news, in the headlines for years.

What's new for Filipino doctors? Are the present circumstances in our country make it justifiable for some of our colleagues to switch to the nursing profession? The financial factor continues to be the primary reason for the so-called "M.D.-R.N." phenomenon. Data from the Bureau of Internal Revenue reveal that the average Filipino physician earns only an annual income of P230,347.75 (P19,195.65 monthly). This means that doctors are also going through hard times in these days of crisis. The government's own economic office estimates that a monthly income of P19,890 is needed to meet the daily basic needs for a family of six in Metro Manila.

Although society view doctors as a group that makes money easily, reality proves otherwise. Health card-dictated consultation fees, the one-year wait for paychecks, local hospital politics, professional jealousy, costly buy-in stocks in major hospitals, and the looming threat of a malpractice law perpetuate the disenchantment among Filipino doctors. It is frustrating to see that one needs to spend a fortune just to become an active consultant in major hospitals. A new young doctor cannot afford this unless he was born to wealthy parents or married to a rich spouse. And this is unfortunate because the youth is touted as the "nation's future."

The rapid decline in the number of medical school applicants and the shortage of training residents in hospitals are testaments to the youth's dwindling confidence in our profession. Malpractice bills filed in the Senate, if approved, would further erode the credibility of the profession with the potential for nuisance suits. SB 1720 (filed by Sen. Serge Osmeña III) and SB 743 (filed by Sen. Manuel Villar) aim to criminalize medical malpractice, including minor, unintentional injuries committed by physicians. Both bills intend to punish erring doctors with *prision mayor* (a prison term of six to 12 years), cancellation of the medical license, and excessive fines ranging from P100,000 to 1,000,000.

Surprisingly, the proposed penalties are harsher than those prescribed for criminals guilty of treason, rebellion, and direct assault. Moreover, the proposed prison term is equivalent to the punishment imposed on criminals guilty of frustrated homicide. The passage of the malpractice law would put doctors convicted of malpractice in the same league as criminals, terrorists and murderers.

If enacted into a law, doctors would resort to the practice of "defensive medicine," which could result in the skyrocketing of medical care costs. Physicians would be required to obtain medical malpractice insurance of no less than P50,000, which most likely would just be passed on to patients.

On the other hand, patients and their families would be encouraged to file suits against doctors for possible quick financial gains in case a complication arises, even though no wrongdoing has been committed by the physician. Furthermore, a pardon explicitly granted by the patient or his family would not be a legal impediment to the prosecution of the "crime." In the end, insurance companies would be the biggest beneficiaries of a malpractice law.

Even without the malpractice law, doctors already face another kind of threat in the form of lifestyle checks and tax evasion cases. The Bureau of Internal Revenue is under tremendous pressure to collect more taxes because of the government's fiscal problems. The BIR announced in February that it would conduct lifestyle checks on doctors because its study revealed a high level of tax delinquency among physicians. Former Health Secretary and Senate Pro Tempore Juan Flavier supports such a move and thinks it's long overdue. Ironically, he finds himself on the other side of the fence. In this BIR protocol, doctors would be investigated concerning their assets and net worth, in terms of vehicles, real estate, their trips abroad, memberships in sports clubs, and the schools where their children study.

But why are doctors singled out before lawyers, accountants, and most actors? With a few exceptions, doctors as a sector are known to be passive, non-confrontational, and even apathetic to national issues. This is the type of personality that thrives and survives in medical school and residency training. Unfortunately, it is this same attitude that makes doctors perfect targets for the BIR.

At a higher level, the financial situation of physicians is intricately associated with the political stability and economy of our nation. Is our country in better shape compared to two years ago? The recent elections did not achieve the stability and unity that we had hoped for. According to a SWS survey conducted last year, 56 percent of Filipinos believed that the rightful winner was not proclaimed. High unemployment rate, low salaries, and corruption in the government continue to plague Philippine society. The country is bankrupt and is in a fiscal crisis—as a result of excessive spending during the election campaign, many believe. In response to the fiscal crisis, the government passed a new VAT law, hoping to raise P80 billion in additional revenues.

Though there is a looming shortage of health professionals due to outmigration, the government seems not to be worried about the resultant "brain drain"; after all, it has some beneficial returns. Health professionals to foreign lands are contributing to high dollar remittances. Outmigrating doctors would only be joining the ranks of overseas contract workers, our so-called "heroes of the economy." In fact, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has reported that overseas workers sent home $8.5 billion last year, the highest level of remittances recorded since 1970. Were it not for the overseas workers, our economy would be in much worse shape than it is now.

While the influx of dollars helps to prop up our economy, the depletion of our workforce, which is already severely affecting the quality of our health services may could very well jeopardize our economic development.

We should investigate whether opportunities for professional satisfaction have been thwarted by hierarchy, conservatism, and cronyism. Our nation's health programs and the professional atmosphere are dependent on the national policies and economy. The issue of exploring the job market overseas is ultimately rooted in our national economy. As long as the economy remains weak and the government fails to create jobs locally or guarantee just compensation, Filipino workers, doctors and nurses included, will continue to search for a better life overseas. This M.D.-R.N. phenomenon is a symptom of a societal disease. And it would not be easy to cure it.

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TALK of the TOWN

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Editor **Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.**

The military in a mismanaged society

THE MILITARY has been in the news the past few weeks. Just before Labor Day, retired Brig. Gen. Fortunato Abat called for the overthrow of the government and the formation of a transition revolutionary government.

Abat said the "people are becoming victims of misgovernance." Then several bishops supported the call for the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo and "immediate change in the system."

The calls for change came as more Filipinos think that the poor will support efforts to overthrow the government to get out of poverty. Efforts to overthrow the government succeeded twice over the past 20 years because of military support.

The last time a group of military officers staged a coup was in 2003. The Magdalo group seized the Oakwood Premier luxury apartments in Makati and aired its grievances such as military officials selling firearms to Moro and communist rebels, and lack of housing and supplies.

After 17 months of court martial, a military tribunal ordered on May 11 the release of 184 soldiers who took part in the coup attempt. Ms Arroyo called the tribunal's decision "a very good example of justice and reconciliation," a statement interpreted by some as part of her attempts to ward off extra-constitutional threats.

But the sentence on the soldiers—demotion by three ranks, forfeiture of two-thirds of their basic salaries for three to six months, and confinement with hard labor for a year (which they had already served)—shows that soldiers who staged a coup are rarely punished severely in the country.

The tribunal's decision may not deter other soldiers from staging a coup as long as their grievances are not addressed.

A former national security adviser says that a reforming military poses a serious threat to a government, which is unable or unwilling to reform itself.

A reforming AFP poses a threat to a corrupt state

By Jose T. Almonte

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO/PAGE DESIGN BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Corruption in government is the saddest example of the well-known "tragedy of the commons"—the despoiling of a collectively owned natural resource or institution that provides public goods.

Like the proverbial village pasture, the state is owned by everyone and, hence, by no one. So that, just as the local shepherds will tend to overgraze the public pasture, so will officials tend to dip into the public treasury—confident that no one really cares deeply enough about public funds which are wasted or stolen.

Just as ironically, because everyone would benefit if government were better run, nothing much is done about poorly run governments—most people choosing (reasonably) to "free-ride" on the civic efforts of the more militant citizens, who must bear the private costs of political and bureaucratic reform.

But most societies try to insulate their military guardians from corruption. Corruption is, therefore, common to both mature and developing states. Because a corrupt military would present a mortal danger to the State, political authorities throughout history have strove to insulate the military institution from temptation by "professionalizing" the officer corps.

Democracies in particular try to instill in their military officers the sense that they have a "higher calling" in the service of society.

Privileged

The professional training that officers receive conditions them—as experts in the management of violence—to regard themselves as a caste set apart from ordinary people.

This corporate feeling is induced by the lengthy and intense training that officers must undergo, and the rigor of the discipline to which they must submit themselves throughout their careers.

When this kind of socialization is successful, the military (as the historian Alfred W. McCoy has observed) is "subordinated to politicians, yet apolitical; armed yet nonviolent; all-powerful yet powerless."

In the "new" countries, however, most militaries become unavoidably politicized. In Indonesia, Vietnam, China and Korea, national armies started out as nationalist militias fighting wars of independence and popular liberation. In Burma and in Thailand, generals have ruled their countries for the better part of the last 70 years.

In the Philippines, the Aquino and Arroyo administrations rose to power on the back of military and national police support.

In all these places, the officer corps is privileged even when it does not monopolize state power. In Indonesia, in Thailand and in China (until fairly recently), the armed forces are authorized to run businesses, as part of the practice of "off-budget financing." The proceeds from these businesses go (theoretically) to military expenditures the government cannot provide. In practice, a great deal ends up in private pockets.

Conversion

Demoralization in the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) seems part and parcel of our cultural pessimism. In this setting, moral failure becomes commonplace because of the weakening, if not death, of the civic culture.

Then also, the problem of corruption in our armed forces is yet another replay of the tragedy of the commons. Poorly paid military officers have virtually absolute authority over a great deal of public money.

The AFP budget of some P45 billion this year is the biggest-single government bureau allocation. The AFP comptroller who, in practice, disposes of this money (typically he is a major general) draws a salary of P37,000 a month. Customarily, this deputy chief of staff for comptrollership (J6) also enjoys much leeway in internal auditing.

Meanwhile, the practice of "conversion" allows the transformation of allocated AFP funds into cash for ad hoc expenditures.

Conversion is often done in "collusion with suppliers and some of the officers involved in the procurement process in an AFP unit," according to the Feliciano Commission. And "it appears ... that the practice ... is extensive and deep-seated in the AFP.

"Funds allocated for a particular use or acquisition of particular equipment ... wind up being used for other purposes—or wind up in the personal bank account of the commander of an AFP unit resorting to conversion."

A "comptroller family" of some 50 officers, made up of experts in conversion, prepares and then handles programs and also internally audits the military budget.

Parting presence

In keeping with the fraternal spirit instilled in the officer corps, these comptrollers apparently look after high-ranking officers. For instance, retiring chiefs of staff apparently receive parting presents of quite large sums. So do officers going abroad for training, and field units celebrating milestones in their corporate lives.

In the course of these philanthropic activities, the comptroller family apparently never forgets the axiom about charity beginning at home. Major Gen. Carlos Garcia (ret.), who was deputy chief of staff for comptrollership, is accused of diverting at least P71 million in AFP funds into his private account. And his predecessor seems to have feathered his own retirement nest with at least P60 million worth of property here and abroad.

The comptroller family may ensure that everybody who counts in the military hierarchy is reasonably happy. But conversion inflicts heavy collateral damage on the field officers and foot-soldiers who are the AFP's point men in its mission to damp down the country's separatist and communist rebellions.

Military leaders seem to have closed ranks after they learned of the dollar shipments Garcia's family had been making to the United States. Apart from shunting Garcia to a less visible staff position, the then chief of staff did little more.

What was worse, the General Staff apparently refused to hand over General Garcia's records, until the Ombudsman, who had by then started his own inquiries, issued the AFP a subpoena.

Fixed tenure

Some suggest a reform of the Philippine Military Academy curriculum, or the abolition of the PMA altogether. This is a dubious idea. A school cannot be held responsible for the moral failures of some of its graduates decades after their graduation.

The first and the easiest reform should be to establish a fixed and secure tenure for the chief of staff.

Already, bills have been filed in Congress proposing that the chief of staff be given a three-year term, which may extend beyond the fixed retirement date for military and national police officers (their 56th birthday).

Some legalists think the President can carry out this reform through a simple executive order. If this is so, then President Macapagal-Arroyo should do it now.

After all, it is her revolving-door appointments to the office—in her efforts to pay off Edsa II debts to key officers—that have, in effect, allowed the comptroller family free range of AFP finances in recent years.

Between May 2002 and November 2004, Garcia was J6 for five different chiefs of staff. Because most of these officers served only for months before their retirement, none of them bothered to reform the General Staff.

Even the new chief of staff, Gen. Efren Abu, will serve for only eight months. Fortunately, he seems made of sterner stuff. On his first day, he abolished the 50-odd comptrollership staff positions in the whole of the AFP, retaining a senior comptroller as a desk officer directly under his office.

This change means the chief of staff will now be assuming personal responsibility for the AFP's finances.

A new office in the civilian Department of Defense, headed by an undersecretary for internal control, is envisaged to eventually become responsible for all AFP auditing. The internal auditing units attached to the comptrollers' offices will eventually be replaced by an all-civilian set of auditors.

"Civilianizing" the AFP comptrollership seems a good idea. But the scourge of corruption respects neither civilian nor military personnel. People engage in corruption because they can.

Reforms

That is why the remedies must deal directly with the conditions that make corruption possible, and why individuals engage in corrupt practices. Initially, the AFP must reexamine how it manages and allocates its funds; how it buys its logistics; how it disciplines its men and women; and, how it reduces if not eliminates the conditions that provide reasons for conversion.

Another source of ideas is the Philippine Defense Reform (PDR), which is a broad-range program to carry out long-term, systemic changes in both the AFP and the Department of Defense. PDR is the product of a continuing joint defense assessment by the Philippines and its American strategic partner.

The State needs to focus the AFP on planning, which must look beyond yearly budget allocations to a coherent and achievable longer-term defense strategy.

Dilemma

Of all institutions in the new countries, the military is commonly the best-organized, the most nearly equal, the most disciplined, and the most closely knit. Hence, it becomes, in most cases, a major player in post-independence politics.

In our country, the military, abetted by the opposition, the Americans and the Church, was venturing into national politics as early as the 1950s when it planned to intervene in the election between an unpopular President Elpidio Quirino and his populist ex-defense secretary Ramon Magsaysay.

But it was President Ferdinand Marcos who thoroughly politicized the officer corps. After having subverted the general staff and the regional commanders, he in late 1972 shut down Congress and the media, arrested all his political enemies and ruled as strongman.

Over the next decade, Marcos rode the tiger of authoritarianism by corrupting key military commanders with unprecedented privileges and perquisites. But, of course, even Marcos found it impossible to get every officer in the military on his side. A few of these dissidents eventually set off a "people power" revolution that drove him into exile.

Grave danger

A reforming AFP will present a grave danger to a mismanaged Philippine State. The AFP in our time has entered a dark period. But the institution is stronger than the fallible individuals who compose it. I have no doubt it will redeem itself.

So potentially powerful is the military, in relation to the larger civilian society, that the quality of its socialization must concern us all.

And a mismanaged society like ours faces a dilemma in dealing with its armed and violent guardian institution.

The dilemma for our mismanaged society is plain and simple. If the military should reflect the corruption and incompetence in national society, then the military will aggravate this corruption and incompetence beyond the tolerance of ordinary people.

Take over

But if, on the other hand, the military remains professional in a state run by corrupt and incompetent politicians, then this professional military will, sooner or later, be moved by popular demand to take over such a mismanaged society.

Ironically, a reforming AFP could present a mortal danger to a Philippine State, which is unable or unwilling to reform itself.

The AFP reform movement should inspire a wider reform movement in the Philippine State

The duty of the soldier is to follow the orders of the civilian authority at all times. But when the political leaders fail as in 1986 or when the national leadership collapses as in 2001 then it becomes the soldier's obligation to directly serve the people.

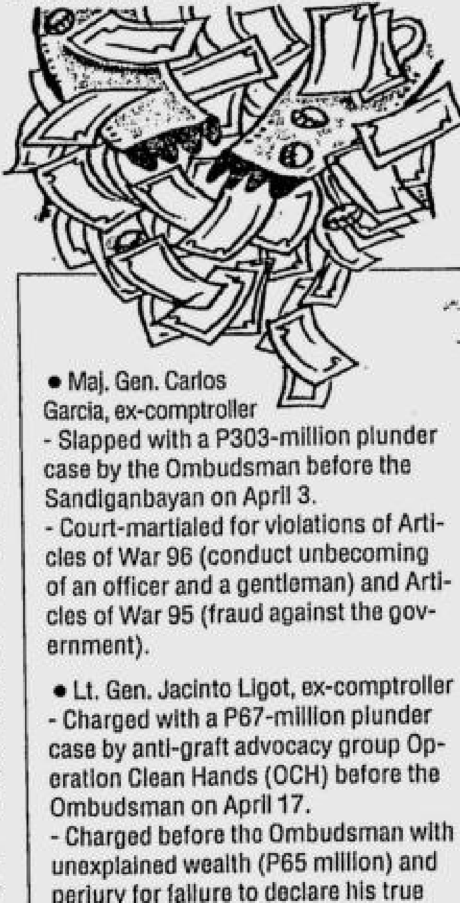
But states cannot always be resolving their problems with "people power." We must break this unsustainable political cycle before it gets out of control and causes national society to implode.

This is why we must ensure that the reform movement in the armed forces inspires a similar and wider movement in the whole of the Philippine State. This is why we must level the playing field of enterprise so that a free national market can begin to reform our politics.

This is why we must level the playing field of our politics so that it can begin reforming our democracy of stalemate.

Because only a reformed, democratic politics can give direction and civic discipline to the market, the military and the whole of society.

(Almonte, a graduate of the Philippine Military Academy (1956), was a national security adviser from 1992 to 1998.)



Officers in the news

- Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, ex-comptroller
  - Slapped with a P303-million plunder case by the Ombudsman before the Sandiganbayan on April 3.
  - Court-martialed for violations of Articles of War 96 (conduct unbecoming of an officer and a gentleman) and Articles of War 95 (fraud against the government).
- Lt. Gen. Jacinto Ligot, ex-comptroller
  - Charged with a P67-million plunder case by anti-graft advocacy group Operation Clean Hands (OCH) before the Ombudsman on April 17.
  - Charged before the Ombudsman with unexplained wealth (P65 million) and perjury for failure to declare his true statement of assets and liabilities
- Lt. Col. George Rabusa, ex-chief of AFP's Budget Division
  - Faces a P62-million plunder case filed by the OCH with the Ombudsman on April 22.
  - Charged with graft before the Ombudsman for unlawfully acquiring over P43 million worth of assets.
- Brig. Gen. Prospero Ocampo, ex-commander of Air Force 570th Composite Tactical Wing
  - Charged with estafa before the Ombudsman in the first documented case of "cash conversion" in the military. He supposedly defrauded a defense contractor of P1.3 million in 2002.
- Maj. Gen. Ralph Flores, ex-chief of Air Logistics Supply Command
  - Demoted from major general to colonel after it was discovered he lied about his age to avoid mandatory retirement in March 2002.
- Rear Adm. Joaquin Tan, ex-Navy vice commander
  - Accused of amassing millions of pesos from illegal transactions he entered into with several suppliers in behalf of the Navy.
- Brig. Gen. Cesar Pahati Gopilan, head of Army's engineering unit
  - Graft charges for allegedly conniving with two private construction firms and "intentionally cheated the government by using substandard materials and abandoning their work" in a major school building project in Albay and Camarines Sur and Norte.
- Col. William Yu, commanding officer of Camp Evangelista Station Hospital, Cagayan de Oro City
  - Relieved last year as commanding officer of the Army's Fort Bonifacio General Hospital because of allegations he allowed the use of expired medicines.
- Col. Edwin Reyes
  - Charged with violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act for using for his own benefit P363,467 that was made to appear as fuel and operational costs incurred by the Air Force.
- Gen. Dionisio Santiago, ex-AFP chief
  - Faces graft charges due to allegations he pocketed P8 million intended for the repair of a swimming pool in Camp Aguinaldo.

Compiled by Maricar Tolosa, PDI Research

RESPECT, PROTECT AND ENHANCE GOD'S CREATION

A Statement of Concern from the Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines

Amidst trying times for our country, it is necessary for men and women of goodwill to take a stand on the burning issues engulfing the nation. The situation impels us as major religious superiors in the Philippines, together with our mission partners, to express our concern on these issues. We hope that the national leadership, as part of its state obligations and accountability, will undertake resolute steps to address them.

LIFE IS SACRED. We are alarmed at the increasing incidents of unresolved extra-judicial killings, massacres, disappearances and other human rights violations done against the lives of ordinary people as well as political activists, journalists and organizations involved in exposing corruption and the abuses of those in power and fighting for social reform.

In the first quarter of 2005 alone, 20 activists and four journalists have been murdered. Entire communities tagged as rebel sympathizers or terrorist lairs have been subjected by the military and police to indiscriminate bombings, arbitrary and illegal searches, mass arrests and detentions, political persecution and other atrocities.

Considering that in most cases the main suspects are agents of the State itself, we urge the **national leadership to strongly condemn these crimes** and, more importantly, **take the necessary steps to stop the perpetrators and bring them to justice**. To do otherwise would only bolster the strong suspicion that these crimes are being tolerated by those in power, leading to what has been called a culture of impunity.

LAND IS LIFE. Coming at the heels of the logging-induced disasters in Quezon, Aurora, Isabela and the Bicol region is the recent Supreme Court decision on the Mining Act of 1995 that removes any obstacle to large-scale, commercial mining operations in the country. Once again, the environment and the indigenous peoples in the mining areas face the risk of development aggression, plunder and environmental destruction. The suspension of the log ban in various regions is an added threat to our environment.

We therefore reiterate our stand to oppose destructive mining operations and support calls for a more sustainable and pro-people mining industry. We urge the government to reinstate the logban in order to preserve our much needed forest cover.

FREEDOM IS INALIENABLE. We are afraid that moves to institute an internal passport and profiling system in the guise of a national ID, coupled with proposals to enact an anti-terrorism law patterned after the U.S. Patriot Act, would unduly infringe on our cherished rights and freedoms.

While we recognize the real threat of terrorism, we are worried that in the guise of counter-terrorism and national security, draconian measures like a national ID and the anti-terrorism bills' provisions on warrantless arrests and searches, wiretapping and electronic surveillance, extended 30-day detention period without charges, and the arbitrary tagging of "terrorist" groups will be used to quell legitimate opposition and dissent. We should learn from the mistakes of martial law. We similarly reject proposals to form a junta or any military-backed dictatorship.

GOVERNANCE IS PEOPLE CENTERED AND RIGHTS-BASED. We are dismayed at the continuing marginalization of indigenous peoples (IPs) in the government's development projects. Many of our IPs have been uprooted from their ancestral lands and ancestral domains. Thousands of urban poor have been ejected violently without proper process and relocation. Access to basic services decrease as privatization gives more control to foreign investors.

We urge the government to review and to correct its economic plans from a human rights perspective. In this manner, people become the primary and lasting beneficiaries of land reform and development plans.

DEBT IS BONDAGE. In trying to solve the fiscal crisis, the national government has become obsessed with additional tax measures while completely ignoring the issue of our onerous and odious debts. With debt service payments eating up 85% of government revenues and still growing bigger by the day, it is time that we squarely address the issue of which debts to pay and not to pay.

Thus, we urge the government to seriously consider options like debt condonation or debt repudiation especially of behest and odious loans acquired during the Marcos dictatorship. We also urge Congress to speed up the creation of a debt commission to audit the public debt.

PEACE AND JUSTICE SHOULD REIGN. The perceived resurgence of the revolutionary Left and the continued conflict in Muslim Mindanao indicate the inefficacy of purely militarist solutions in resolving armed conflict. To allow a comprehensive peace process to work, the negotiations should center not so much on the armed struggle itself, but on resolving the injustices and inequalities that are at the roots of the armed conflict.

We believe more sincerity and effort should be put in implementing agreements already made with communist and Muslim rebels. Particular attention should be made in reviving the stalled GRP-NDFP peace talks based on previously agreed, mutually acceptable principles and frameworks.

Life, land, and freedoms are God's creation, the integrity of which must be preserved so that peace and justice could genuinely reign. We hope that the State realizes the importance of working much more earnestly in the defense of God's creation and our people's quest for a better life.

Peace be to all of you!

May 10, 2005

The Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines (AMRSP)

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Sr. Ma. Luz Mijares, OSA

Bro. Edmundo Fernandez
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'We are already eating poison'

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
President Roxas, North Cotabato

LUMAD folk prepare the deadly *kayos* to relieve them from hunger. JEFFREY M. TUPAS

HANDS clasped toward his chest, Elidan Maribu, the leader of a remote *lumad* (indigenous people) community in President Roxas town in North Cotabato, led the prayer in Manobo before the assembly:

"Our life is full of misery ... grief ... difficulty. What can we do now? We only got you, Mañama, our God. You alone can help us ... most powerful, great God."

Nearly 300 Manobo families have been experiencing hunger for the past five months in Barangay Lama-Lama in President Roxas. Like most far-flung villages in the town, it was last visited by rain in December last year.

What used to be green landscape is now cracked earth. The dry spell has meant hunger, and hunger, death.

With food scarce, the residents have been forced to eat the poisonous wild yam called "*kayos*."

Like cassava, *kayos* has a high hydrocyanic acid (HCN) content, according to experts at the Central Mindanao Integrated Agricultural Research Center (Cemiarc).

The HCN is a solution of hydrocyanide gas in liquid form. It is a colorless, highly poisonous, volatile liquid and smells like bitter almonds, according to medical books. Exposure in large amounts to all forms of cyanide, including the HCN, even for a short time, can harm the brain, lungs and heart, and can cause coma and death.

The effects are the same for cyanide eaten, drunk, breathed or touched in large amounts.

The Manobo people are aware that *kayos* is not actually safe to eat, but Maribu said they had no choice. "We are already eating poison here," he said.

Another resident, Presco Mansulay, said he was forced to feed their children *kayos* than to watch them die of starvation.

So far, Mansulay said, no one had died from eating *kayos*.

3 fatalities

But according to a report of the Apo Sandawa Lumadnong Panaghiusa sa Cotabato (ASLPC), three *lumad* have died under hunger-related circumstances. One of them succumbed after eating *kayos*.

At least 93 *lumad*, including children, have been poisoned, said Norma Capuyan, ASLPC chair.

Capuyan said natives in Kidapawan City and at least nine of the 17 towns in the province had been forced to eat *kayos* because of the drought. Aside from President Roxas, the towns are Arakan, Antipas, Magpet, Makilala, Matalam, Kabacan, Carmen and Tulunan.

Lumad residents of Columbio town in Sultan Kudarat are experiencing the same situation.

One villager, Florita Ando, admitted that several times, she felt dizzy or nauseated after partaking of the root crop. To counter the effects, she said, "we just eat sugar and coconut."

According to medical books, the first symptoms of poisoning are rapid, deep breathing and shortness of breath, followed by convulsions and fainting. In acute cases, death is extremely rapid.

Those exposed to hydrogen cyanide experience asphyxia, weakness, headache, confusion, nausea and vomiting. Primarily affected are the central nervous and cardiovascular systems, liver and kidneys.

Careful preparations

Jess Lumbao, senior agriculture research officer of Cemiarc, said the *kayos* should be carefully prepared as an alternative food. Its HCN content can only be reduced but not totally eliminated by repeated wedging of the grated meat, he said.

"But there really is no assurance that the *kayos* is already safe for eating, even after that process. ... we actually are currently scientifically studying safe *kayos* preparations," Lumbao said.

Mansulay said the residents were very careful in preparing the crop. They had to slice the crop evenly and soak it in running water for three to five days before drying it under the sun, also for three to five days, he said.

In 1998, most people in the upland areas of North Cotabato, such as the Arakan Valley, were forced to eat the *kayos* because no other food was available.

But in some areas where the harvest of root crop is not enough, the people have readjusted their appetite to the succulent stalks of the *karlang* (a *gabi* family) and banana stems (*ugpas*).

"These are not food for humans. These are stuff given to hogs," Capuyan said.

Although on the verge of desperation, the *lumad* have not yet lost hope, she said. They have been sending resolutions for the authorities to hear them out, but there has been no response so far, she said.

Lack of funds

Capuyan said the government blamed the lack of funds to ease the situation despite the fact that the province was already declared under a state of calamity after the mild spell was felt in March.

"They (government officials) just don't seem to care about the plight of the *lumad*," Capuyan said.

The provincial board, in a resolution, has placed the province under the calamity state as 14 of its 18 towns have been affected by the dry spell.

In April, the provincial agriculturist's office said at least 22,217 hectares of palay and corn farms have been damaged due to lack of water.

"But it was so surprising that every time we asked for aid, we were told that there were no funds when the whole province had already been declared under a state of calamity," Capuyan said.

"I dread the time when the government starts moving its stuff only if it sees more deaths," she added.

Zaida Jubilan-Rinsulat, provincial social welfare officer, said her agency's immediate response to the crisis was stalled by the fact that municipal social welfare offices failed to submit documents, including requests for assistance.

Only this month did the social welfare office pool its resources to address the five-month-old hunger problem. It came after impact or damage assessment reports were submitted by agriculture and social welfare officers in the affected towns.

"It [the report] was [meant] to justify that not only are the farmers, as registered in the agriculture office, were affected by the dry spell but also the farm laborers who are among the poorest of the poor," Rinsulat said.

The provincial government has already released P2 million for rice procurement. Rice distribution has also started.

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Thousands flee military bombardment

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A beneficiary of the Gawad Kalinga Housing Program helps build her future home in General Nakar, Quezon. The project is made possible with the help of Smart Communications Inc. and its volunteer employees. The project seeks to build homes for at least 100 families who lost their houses in landslides and typhoons.

BUTUAN—Thousands of civilians have fled their homes as the military pounded with heavy artillery and aerial bombardment New People's Army (NPA) strongholds in the lush Andap Valley complex in Surigao del Sur.

Lawyer Antonio Azarcon, spokesperson of the human rights watchdog Karapatan-Surigao del Sur, said more than 2,600 people have already been displaced following days of heavy shelling on suspected rebel lairs.

"The people have deserted their villages for fear of being caught in the bombardment," Azarcon said in a mobile phone interview.

The Andap Valley complex covers the towns of Lianga, Marihatag, San Miguel and San Agustin.

"The numbers are growing by the day, this is a humanitarian crisis," Azarcon said.

He said seven farmers were reported missing since the military launched the offensives after clashes between government troops and NPA guerrillas broke out last week.

But Maj. Alexis Bravo, spokesperson of the Army's 4th Infantry Division, said Azarcon's claims were "exaggerated."

Bravo said the military had "safeguarded" the civilians in its operation which was aimed at flushing out the rebels from the resource-rich Andap complex.

The fighting has already claimed the lives of two Army soldiers and at least 10 NPA rebels, the military said.

On Wednesday, five Scout Rangers were seriously wounded when their jeep ran over a roadside land mine in a remote village in Marihatag town.

Earlier, government troops overran an alleged rebel "bomb factory" and recovered a truckload of assorted explosives and devices for bomb-making and paraphernalia somewhere in the Andap Valley.

Maj. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, chief of the military's Special Operations Command (Socom), said one of the soldiers wounded in the land mine explosion remains in critical condition.

Scout Rangers have been scouring the Andap Valley in the borders of Surigao del Sur and Agusan del Sur after the May 5 clash in Marihatag, Surigao del Sur that killed a junior officer.

On Sunday, four rebels were killed as troops advanced into the valley which, the military said, was being used by the NPA as base.

"They were on a trail going up valley when the incident occurred," Esperon said.

He said NPA rebels could have planted the land mines as they were "withdrawing from their original position."

When soldiers combed the valley on May 9 and 10, Esperon said they found at least two truckloads of explosives the rebels had abandoned.

Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Alberto Braganza said a "relentless effort is being implemented against communist rebels particularly in the towns of Marihatag and San Agustin." *Franklin A. Caliguid, Julie S. Alipala and Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Communist rebs vow to run after military general for slayings, rights violations

LUCENA CITY—The controversial Army officer, Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, would someday pay for the series of summary killings of leftist activists and human rights abuses in Eastern Visayas, the Communist Party of the Philippines said yesterday.

"The revolutionary forces will make sure that Palparan pays for every drop of blood of each and every victim of his dirty war," said CPP spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal in a statement.

"We hold General Palparan and the Arroyo regime responsible for the rash of killings, abductions, torture, bombings, forced evacuations and other acts of state terrorism in Samar and Leyte," the statement added.

Rosal accused Palparan of being responsible for the killing of Protestant Pastor Edison Lapuz, Katungod-Sinirangan Bisayas chair and Alfredo Malinao, head of the Kahugpungan sa mga Mag-uruma sa San Isidro (Kamas).

Katungod-SB is the local chapter of the national human rights watchdog Karapatan while Kamas is affiliated with the Katipunan ng mga Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP).

Lapuz, a former Eastern Visayas coordinator of the party-list group Bayan Muna, was gunned down by still unidentified armed men at about 7 p.m. Thursday just hours after he attended the burial of his father-in-law in front of his house in Sitio Motor, Barangay Crossing, San Isidro, Leyte.

Malinao, in his 40s, a former barangay councilor, who was with Lapuz at that time, was fatally hit by a stray bullet.

"In Eastern Visayas, the notorious fascist Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, who President Macapagal-Arroyo has rewarded and promoted several times over, is on a rampage. In doing so, he has shed all pretensions and has put himself forward as the Arroyo regime's most rabid and reliable fascist," Rosal said.

The death of Lapuz and Malinao brought to four the number of militant leaders in the region who were murdered by still unidentified armed men since March. The incident was also the sixth perpetrated against militant leaders in the region for the past two months.

Alex Lagunzad, secretary general of Katungod-Sinirangan Bisayas said Lapuz left behind two children—a 12-year-old girl and a seven-year-old boy.

His remains now lie in their San Isidro residence.

Mayor Allan Ang condemned what he described as the "gruesome" killings of Lapuz and Malinao. He said he already directed his police chief, SPO4 Delfin Sabanal, to solve the murder.

Militant groups in the region blamed the military for the killing of the pastor.

Maj. Neneviegh Alcovindas, chief of the 34th Civil Relations Unit based in Barangay Alimasag, San Jose district, in Tacloban City, denied the allegations.

"We deeply express our condolences to the families of the victims but at the same time, we strongly deny the allegations that the military is involved on this incident," Alcovindas told the INQUIRER.

Palparan, who vowed to finish the region's insurgency problem in six months to a year, has repeatedly denied any military involvement in any of the killings and harassment of militants. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Joey A. Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau*

John Hay developer sues gov't for ₱10B in damages

BAGUIO CITY—The developer of Camp John Hay sued the government for P10 billion in damages on Friday over a Supreme Court ruling that nullified the tax incentives it has been receiving for converting the former American rest and recreation center into a P2-billion tourism estate.

Fil Estate chair Robert John Sobrepeña, president of the Camp John Hay Development Corp. (CJHDevco), filed the case before the Philippine Dispute Resolution Center (PDRC), a government arbitration body that enforces contracts.

Sobrepeña said the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) duped them into bidding and contracting 264 hectares of Camp John Hay in 1996, using tax incentives which the Supreme Court described in a March ruling as inapplicable to the Camp John Hay special economic zone.

Sobrepeña said his firm's capital exposure at Camp John Hay has reached more than P4.3 billion because of the court decision.

Lawyer Georgina Alvarez, CJHDevco senior vice president for legal and corporate services, said BCDA now owes CJHDevco about P10.9 billion, accounting for a P6.32 billion profit that the developer lost from the time they assumed the contract in 1996 to the contract's termination in 2047.

CJHDevco is under fire from both the BCDA and the Baguio City government for a P1.2-billion rent backlog, which became the subject of two negotiated pay schedules.

But Sobrepeña decided to withhold his payments last year when the high court declared that only Congress had the authority to waive taxes of Camp John Hay. The incentives are embodied in Presidential Proclamation 420, which created the Camp John Hay special economic zone.

On top of the damage claims, Sobrepeña also urged the BCDA to "hold CJHDevco free and harmless from all claims and suits from the government and other entities as a result of the withdrawal of the tax and financial incentives." *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Key meet of mayors set in Puerto

AT LEAST 35 of the country's city mayors are expected to tackle a mix of policy issues, from the controversial internal revenue allotment (IRA) to the conversion of 72 municipalities into cities, when the 25th annual executive board meeting of the League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP) opens in Puerto Princesa tomorrow.

Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn and Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Treñas, league chair and president respectively, said in a press statement they will lead discussions tackling the major concerns of the country's 117 cities.

They include, among others, the Department of Education's proposed school building program; the proposal to increase tax exemption privileges of real estate property and pending resolutions on the value-added tax and the local ID system.

The city mayors will also review the status of various projects like the CDS Project—PHRD Grant Component and the proposal to establish a Canadian Urban Institute.

Hagedorn will also give an update on the program to create an environment unit in the LCP which was completed with the assistance of Mayor Clay Ford, president of the Florida League of Cities, and his team.

China plans new consulate in Laoag to boost tourism

LAOAG CITY—Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines Wu Hongbo said the proposed establishment of a Chinese consulate in this Ilocos Norte capital would provide easier access to promote trade and tourism between the Philippines and China.

Wu arrived here on Thursday for a four-day visit and began scouting for a site for the proposed consulate, including other areas of investment such as energy, wind power, mining and aviation.

The establishment of a Chinese consulate here was part of a renewed agreement between President Macapagal-Arroyo and Chinese President Hu Jintao to advance economic and trade cooperation between their countries. The Chinese leader visited the country last month.

"I've been asked why I [chose] Laoag. This is the best choice because I find it difficult to reach the northern part with our limited resources," Wu said at a dinner hosted by the Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce here.

Wu said Laoag receives 30 percent of Chinese travelers, prompting his government to open an office that would mount more tourism entry into northern Philippines. China also maintains a consulate in Cebu and an embassy in Manila. *Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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Bets oppose postponement of polls for ARMM execs

COTABATO CITY—Muslim officials seeking public office in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) have opposed the postponement of the regional elections scheduled in August.

Leading the opposition are Lakas-CMD gubernatorial candidate Mayor Zaldy Ampatuan and his running mate Lanao del Sur Assemblyman Ansarudin Adiong.

In a gathering of the ARMM's political bigwigs from Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao on Thursday, they also agreed to forsake violence during the elections.

"We do it for the sake of a peaceful and orderly ARMM polls," according to Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan.

Sulu Rep. Hussin Amin has authored a bill in Congress seeking the postponement of the elections, claiming that holding it this year might lead to violence.

Reelectionist ARMM Gov. Parouk Hussin favors the postponement of elections saying it would require a huge amount of money.

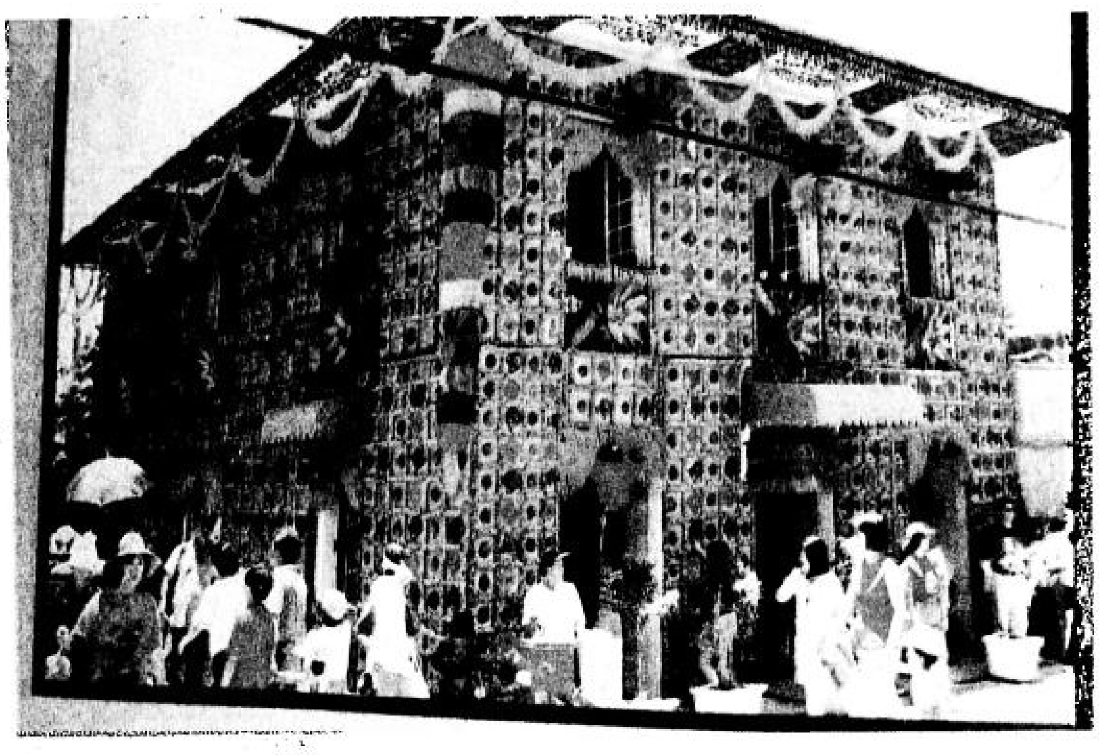
"At this point in time when the country is besieged with monetary problems, I think it is impractical to spend election funds," he said but quickly added that he was ready to face his opponents in a fair balloting.

Hussin, the fourth ARMM governor, is seeking reelection because, he claimed, Organization of the Islamic Conference envoys urged him to do so.

But Mayor Ampatuan said the region has enough military and police forces to ensure peaceful and orderly elections.

"For months now, the region is relatively quiet," he told reporters.

"Last year's election was recorded as the most peaceful in recent years, especially in Maguindanao," he said. *Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*


DELFIN MALLARI JR./PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

WINNING DESIGN
One of the winning Pahiyas designs of Anacleto Teope, recognized as the dean of the modern adaptation of the Pahiyas Festival in Lucban, hangs in a frame in one of the restaurants in the town.

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ROUNDUP

Cashier survives shooting

COTABATO CITY—A cashier of the Philippine Postal Corp. survived an assassination attempt on Friday. Celso Capoy, 45, was entering the Mail Distribution Center near Shariff Kabunsuan Boulevard here when two men shot him. He was hit below the right ear and managed to run inside the office for help. The two gunmen, both armed with cal. 45 pistols, simply walked away from the crime scene. Capoy, who is confined at a private hospital here, claimed he was returning from a mid-morning snack when he was attacked. But postal employees believed the suspects were robbers since it was their payday. They said the suspects could have thought that Capoy came from a bank with the worker's pay.

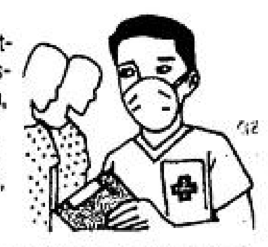
Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Van hits, kills 3

NARVACAN, Ilocos Sur—Three persons standing on a roadside in Barangay Nanguneg East here were killed when a wayward van hit them on Wednesday morning. Police identified the fatalities as Gregoria Peck, 69, Lydia Cabreros and Alfredo Cabreros. A police report said the right front tire of a Metro Manila-bound Hyundai van driven by Noel Jimenez, 39, burst, causing the vehicle to swerve and hit the victims. Police said Jimenez, his passengers Lorna Gimenez, 48, and Carlo Paggabao, 34, and bystanders Amelia Dingle and Eliseo Cabalce were hurt.

Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

New meningo cases



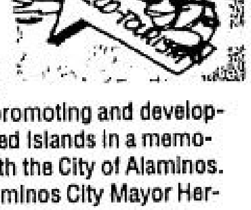
BAGUIO CITY—Local health officials have reported two new victims of suspected meningococcemia, among them a security guard of a local shopping mall. Dr. Antonio Bautista, head of the regional Department of Health unit monitoring meningococcemia cases, said the security guard and a resident of Sison, Pangasinan were taken this week to the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center, complaining of fever and skin rashes. The BGHMC is equipped to deal with the fatal meningitis strain and has been accepting cases from outside the city. But Bautista said the chances of contamination are small.

Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Science trip for teachers

A GROUP of high school teachers is scheduled to leave the country for Washington to attend a training program in science instruction. Heading the delegation is Fr. Eric Velandria, S.J., principal of the Sacred Heart Jesuit School in Cebu City, who holds a doctorate in education. He will be joined by Dolores Sanannam, Jennifer Igot, Emmanuel Gomez, Cyril Lusuergo, and Anita Tagadiad—all masters' degree holders in science education. They teach chemistry, physics, and biology at Xavier University in Cagayan de Oro, Ateneo de Davao University, and Ateneo de Zamboanga University. The grant was personally sponsored by Dr. Bruce Alberts, president of the US National Academy of Science, whose primary mission and vision is to "make every child a scientist," according to a press statement.

DOT backs islands' tourism



THE DEPARTMENT of Tourism has recently included the Hundred Islands National Park in the list of the top eight ecotourism destinations of the country. Tourism Secretary Joseph Durano, in a press statement, said his agency will be in charge of encouraging, promoting and developing tourism in the Hundred Islands in a memorandum of agreement with the City of Alaminos. Local officials, led by Alaminos City Mayor Hernani Braganza of Pangasinan, welcomed the tourism department recognition.

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Jueteng lords use OFWs to launder money

From page A1

abroad," the source said in an interview. "He also gets to dispose of huge amounts of cash and this makes it harder for authorities to go after him."

Normally, as happened in the past, jueteng collections or payoffs are used to purchase property or are deposited in local and foreign banks. But that means a paper trail—and the risk of possible investigation.

"In terms of the mode, it's not actually new," Deputy Director General Rolando García, chief of the Philippine Center for Transnational Crimes, said of the money laundering scheme.

"In fact, it is also being used for illegal activities in other countries, not just in the Philippines. But whether it is specifically being used to launder jueteng money, it could be happening," Garcia said.

Saudi Arabia, UAE, Italy

The INQUIRER source said he first learned about the scheme in the middle of last year. By then, he said, it was already gaining popularity—albeit quietly—among OFWS in Middle Eastern countries, such as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

About one million Filipinos work in the Saudi kingdom and 175,000 in the UAE.

Lately, the operation has branched out to Italy, where there are 120,000 Filipino workers, the source said.

"The OFWs become unwittingly involved in the laundering of millions in jueteng money. They do not generally know that the one who contacts them for the remittance is involved in jueteng," the source said.

Besides, his offer is not exactly a bad deal.

The scheme allows OFWs to remit exactly the same amount—if not a bigger equivalent in pesos—that they want to send to relatives, the source said.

And unlike bank remittances, the transfers are free of transaction fees.

The scheme is also probably even more efficient than door-to-door deliveries because the legman in the Philippine end of the deal "hand-carries" the money, however big the amount is, right up to the recipient's doorstep, the source said.

Mafia-like guarantees

"There's no need to worry about people running away with the money," he said. "Jueteng operators and their men work [on] trust and confidence. If anyone fails to deliver, he will be killed, just like in any Mafia-like group."

Jueteng operators came up with the new system as part of their efforts to keep agencies like the Anti-Money Laundering Council in the dark about where their loot was.

"Technically, what they're keeping abroad is not jueteng money but OFW remittances," the source explained. "So it's quite hard for the AMLC to go after it. Besides, it would be lucky for anyone to locate where the money is being kept."

Areas of jurisdiction

Of the two known gambling lords engaged in money laundering, one is supposedly in charge of jueteng operations in Quezon province. The other purportedly covers Pangasinan, Isabela, Bataan, Mindoro, Albay and parts of Pampanga.

The source said a governor suspected of running jueteng operations in northern Luzon did not want to get involved in the scheme.

The source said he had no information on the specific amounts being remitted by individual OFWs using the jueteng channel.

"Whatever they remit through normal channels is the same amount they remit through this system," he said.

Under the scheme, jueteng operators work independently of each other, handling OFW remittances in their own areas of jurisdiction.

Mayors to sue …

From page A1

will give them their maintenance and operational expenses provided that they will stop jueteng in my area and avoid sourcing money from illegal means, like jueteng," he said.

Who really knows?

"We do not know who are on the take. Even the accusers might be indirectly or directly getting from jueteng. Who knows?" Siquian said.

Ilagan Mayor Delfinito Albano said organized and guerrilla-type jueteng operations in the capital town had been stopped.

"If the governor is saying [that the mayors are on the take], I can safely say that I am not. In fact, I am even prodding our policemen to work hard against this menace or face relief," Albano said.

Chief Supt. Jefferson Soriano, Cagayan Valley police director, said the job of stopping jueteng should not be left solely to policemen and that a holistic approach was needed.

"Even if we are running after jueteng operators for so long [as] there are no alternative jobs or livelihood for those who will be displaced, they will certainly return to their old jobs once the police focus on other priorities," he said.

Not police job alone

He said the police lacked the personnel to sustain daily operations against jueteng.

"We cannot focus on jueteng alone. Local government units and nongovernment organizations should come in and help educate the people on the false promises of the game. We should not leave the police to do the job without [giving them] support," he said.

Soriano said he was surprised by reports that Padaca had asked for the transfer of Senior Supt. Napoleon Estilles, Isabela police director, despite the official's accomplishment last year of stopping jueteng in Isabela.

Anti-jueteng fighter

Estilles, who will assume the helm of the La Union police, was named the best senior police officer in the country last year for his anticrime and anti-illegal gambling campaigns and for defusing the tension among feuding politicians in Isabela during last year's elections.

Estilles said that despite the meager financial support a police antigambling task force was getting from the provincial government, the Isabela police campaign against jueteng was cited by the PNP as the best in 2004.

The award was based on the number of raided jueteng dens, arrested jueteng employees and seized betting money and paraphernalia.

"We have not totally stopped [jueteng] but we work to stop it… No other groups or individuals are helping us [in the campaign]," Estilles said.

Strike 3 policy

In Metro Manila, PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao ordered ground commanders to be "relentless" in their campaign against jueteng, described as a P13-billion a year industry that has flourished because of the protection it gets.

"[Lomibao] may no longer wait for 'strike three.' If it can be established that there is widespread jueteng operations in an area, and that [the local police chief] tolerates it, he will be relieved immediately," PNP spokesperson Senior Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil said.

Under the "strike three policy," if the police's Anti-Illegal Gambling Task Force has to go three times against illegal gambling in a town, city, province or region, the police chief of that area is sacked.

Padaca finds allies

Bataoil said allegations that local police officials were on the take had yet to be proven. Still, there was no excuse local policemen could not curb illegal gambling.

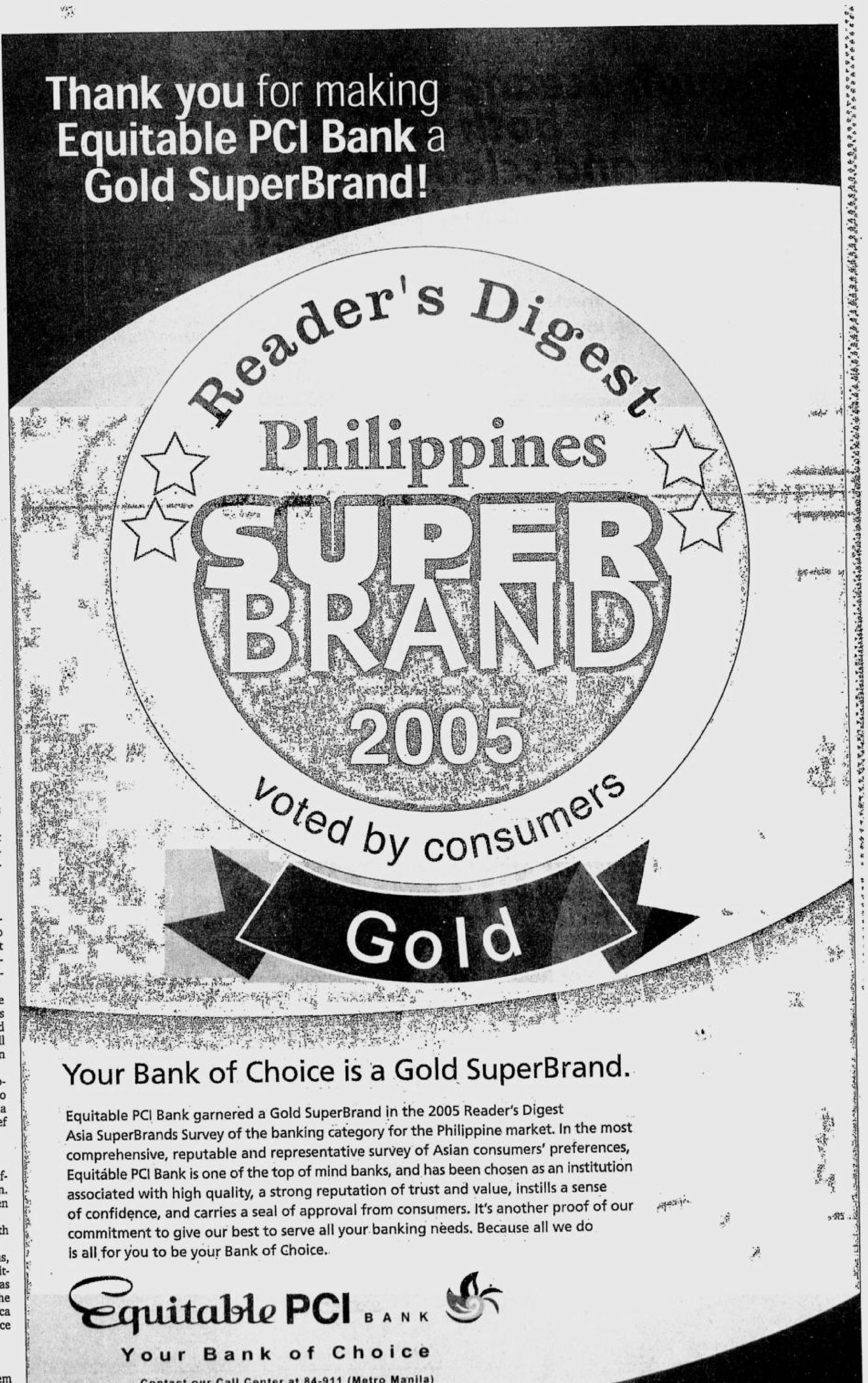
Padaca found allies in the Lower House, with some lawmakers praising her for her courage.

Representatives Joel Mayo Almario (Lakas, Davao Oriental), chair of the House committee on games and amusements, and Douglas Cagas (NPC, Davao del Sur), vice chair of the committee on good government, said Padaca should file charges against mayors and police officers who are involved in jueteng.

Exemplar

"She should pursue the case against them in court and support this with evidence to ensure success of her anti-jueteng crusade," Almario said.

Cagas said other local officials should follow Padaca's example and lead the anti-jueteng campaign in their respective provinces. *With a report from Philip C. Tubeza*



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Sierra Madre guardian is Isabela's best kept secret

THE TOWN that time forgot. Except for some tricycles, three-wheel improvised vehicles called *kuliglig* and a couple of locals on horseback, the streets of Palanan are mostly deserted.

From page A1

town is devoid of heroes.

"Environmental heroes have emerged from this place," said Dr. Cindy Medina, sociocultural affairs director of the Isabela State University in Echague.

Former Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez, also a native of Isabela, agreed.

In the early 1990s, then Senator Alvarez pushed for the establishment in the northern Sierra Madre mountains of a nature park.

The park, which later became a component of the World Bank-funded Integrated Protected Areas System, was declared the Palanan Wilderness in 1979. It was to have been a state-protected area, but it existed only on paper.

Palanan is in the eastern portion of the park, which, at nearly 360,000 hectares, makes it the Philippines' largest protected area.

Biodiversity

The northern Sierra Madre is described as "a huge and largely still unknown reservoir of biodiversity" in the coffee-table book, "The National Parks and other Wild Places of the Philippines."

A portion of the book reads: "Bird studies [in 1991 and 1992 by an international team of scientists] revealed 241 species, along with 78 of the nation's 169 endemic species, including the mighty Philippine eagle. It was a similar story with mammals, 14 species of bats [having been] found. Similarly, nine species of rodents were found, all endemic. For larger mammals, one species each of deer, pig and monkey, along with two species of civet were found."

6 kinds of forest

Six kinds of forest have been identified in the area, ranging from the lowland evergreen to montane, mangrove, beach forest, limestone and forest growing on ultrabasic rocks.

Another portion of the book (printed by New Holland Publishers in the United Kingdom and three other countries) reads: "[The northern Sierra Madre's] remoteness has enabled it to escape the unwelcome attention of loggers. Consequently, it remains one of the country's last great wilderness areas—barely explored, let alone studied or scientifically described—and is of international significance as the only known home within Luzon of the Philippine eagle."

The mountains are "wild and remote, with not a single road crossing the range in its entire length (although most maps do erroneously show several routes)."

"The terrain is extremely rugged, the mountains steep and densely forested. The highest point within the park is Mt. Cresta (elevation: 5,486 feet), with at least two more peaks ... namely Mt. Divilacan (4,301 feet) and Mt. Palanan (3,977 feet)."

Inaccessibility

More than 90,000 hectares of Palanan's total land area of 1,220 square kilometers are timberland, while another 10,339 hectares are used as cropland. It has a built-up area of only 52.05 hectares.

This mainly Catholic community, said to be founded by Franciscan missionaries in 1609 on the banks of the Pinacanawan River,"is bounded by the towns of Divilacan in the north and San Mariano in the south and west, and the vast Pacific Ocean in the east.

Paranan, a mixture of Ibanag, Spanish, Tagalog and the indigenous Agta (or Dumagat) language, is the local folk's mother tongue.

"Inaccessibility is perhaps one of the reasons that retarded Palanan's growth," Padaca said.

In the absence of direct road access from adjacent towns, Palanan can only be reached by a 30-35-minute flight in a six- or four-seat, single-engine Cyclone commuter plane from Cauayan City; a six-to-seven-hour boat ride from Dingalan or Baler, Aurora, in the south, or a three-to-five-day hike from San Mariano.

Except for some tricycles, a few horses and improvised three-wheel pickups called *kuliglig*, the streets are empty most of the time.

But taking the plane to Palanan is "a treat in itself," said Padaca.

"You can see the beauty of the Sierra Madre," she said. "From the air, the green treetops look like broccoli. Even if you still have to get there, you already feel that the trip is worth it."

This is why putting up a road network in the mountains is "not a good idea," she said.

Economics

Business activities are hardly felt in Palanan.

Sari-sari stores (89) top its list of commercial establishments, followed by eateries (11), dry goods stores (10), tailoring/dressmaking shops (8) and rice mills (7), according to town hall records.

There is no bank. Power is available in Poblacion for only seven to eight hours daily.

Only a little more than 1,300 residents have access to sanitary toilets.

According to Padaca, the town was not given "the necessary focus" by her predecessors.

"I hope it's not because of its small voting population (about 6,000)," she said, but added: "The problem has nothing to do with politics, or political affiliation. I think it's more of government priorities."

Both the mayor and her son, Vice Mayor Angelo Bernardo, are members of the opposition National People's Coalition.

Last frontier

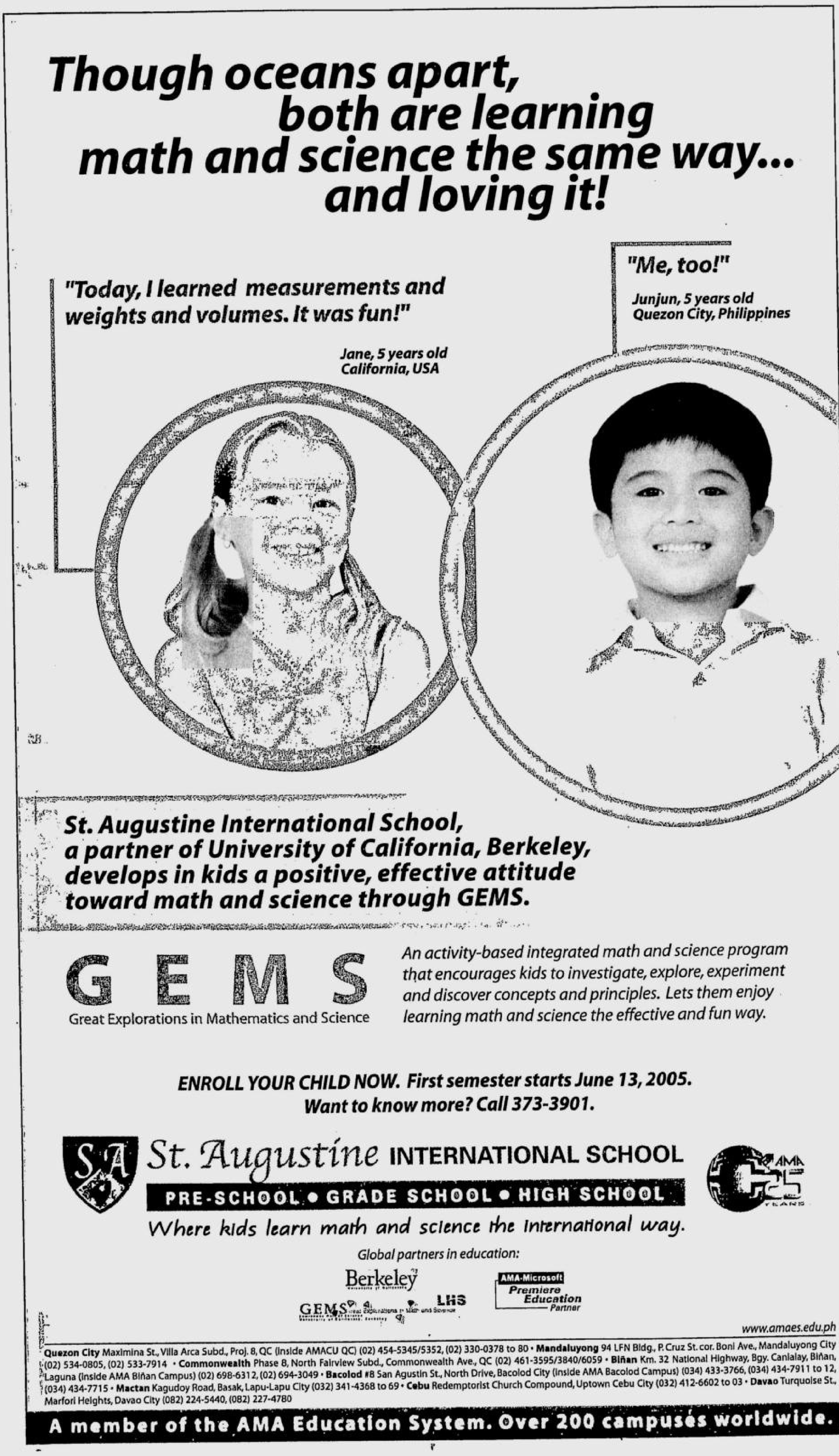
Mayor Bernardo has asked both Malacañang and Congress to study the possibility of building a "coastal road network" that would finally link Palanan to other Isabela towns.

She raised the "much-needed rehabilitation" of the local airstrip to allow bigger planes to land.

According to Alvarez, Palanan needs "anything but full-scale development, especially by land developers."

"That would be the wrong kind of development," he said, adding that he would rather see Palanan remain "a bulwark of sustainability."

And "one of the country's last frontiers," the vice mayor, who serves as Palanan tourism officer, said confidently.



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Trust means believing in 'bulong'

By Nancy C. Carvajal

IF YOU are reliable, trustworthy and ready to work hard, then you will never go hungry.

In the fish ports of Navotas, jobs are plentiful for those with these traits, said trader Liezel Jimenez-Santillan.

Though close to midnight, the market in the Philippine Fish Port Complex, which is as big as a shopping mall, is bright and abuzz with activity.

Banyeras (tubs) full of fresh fish of different sizes and colors and other marine products are on display.

Men and women, most of them wearing rubber boots, move around briskly. The rubber boots protect them from the muddy water that is constantly present even if it does not rain.

But unlike in many other places, trust still carries a lot of weight here. Business deals are made on the bases of trust and honor.

For regular buyers who are already well known to traders, credit is fast and easy.

These regular customers or *suki* can take the fish and pay for it the following day.

A BUYER gives her offer to the checker during the traditional "bulungan" (whispering) bidding process at the Navotas fish port. JOAN BONDOC

No need for names

"Sometimes we don't even know their family names. Location and the name of the market would suffice," Jimenez-Santillan said.

Trust is not only required of buyers but also of fishing boat owners, checkers, brokers, traders, hired help and *cargadores*, who all have crucial roles in the success of the trading.

Fishing vessel operators have to feel confident that traders will give them a fair price for the fish they bring in.

Trading is done by bidding—mainly through *bulong* (whisper) with the checker of operators. The checker is a person trusted by all those involved in the trading.

The *bulong* system prevents the hassle of an open bidding.

"The checker can't play favorites because there's always a chance he would be found out and he would lose a well-paying job," Jimenez-Santillan said.

Traders' bids determine fish prices in various markets all over Luzon.

Setting prices

"The traders dictate the prices of fish in different markets in Luzon," Jimenez-Santillan admitted.

If the winner does not buy all the fish being traded, losing bidders draw lots on who should take the remaining fish, until everything is sold.

Traders should have a good feel for prices to avoid making bids that are too low or too high, which would be unfair to everyone concerned.

Not just anybody can be a trader. The job is often inherited or awarded as a trust, according to Jimenez-Santillan.

A graduate of an exclusive girls' school, she is married to Jay Santillan, who belongs to one of the old families of traders in Navotas.

"Today's fish traders come from (families of) traders," Jimenez-Santillan said. These families had been in the business for several generations.

Hereditary

The INQUIRER learned that not only the business of fish trading was passed on from one generation to the next. Even fish port workers "were inherited" by the children of their original employers.

Cargadores, who are important to buyers, move around identified by the bamboo pole on their shoulders with hooks on both ends for carrying tubs of fish.

"We earn an average of P500 a night," said Domingo Reyes, who had been going to the ports since 2003. He said he inherited his job from a cousin who had to go home to Samar for a family emergency.

"My cousin had to introduce me to his clients, otherwise they would not accept me," Domingo said in Filipino.

He said, in the fish ports, no matter how insignificant one's job may seem, reputation mattered.

"The moment you do wrong, nobody would trust you anymore," he said.

Some traders, Jimenez-Santillan said, tried working in an office but after a while went into buying and selling fish. "These traders were seasoned by time and experience. (The job may) seem easy but it is not."

Codes

Transactions used codes like *piso* for one thousand and *sais* for P600. *Tirik* means no one is buying.

Business must be profitable, which is why it is being handed down from one generation to the next.

Every night, a minimum of 40,000 tubs of fish are sold, with traders earning from P50 to P100 per tub. But they pointed out that there were expenses incurred in doing business.

Trading sometimes ends at the break of day. If the weather is good and the supply of fish is ample, it continues into the early morning. Extended trading hours, though, do not always assure a good profit.

But like in any business, there are days when traders have to sell at a price below the actual cost of the merchandise. This happens when there are more fish to sell and the demand is low.

Helper's mistake costs employer ₱2.3 million

By Tarra V. Quismundo

CONFUSED and in panic, 21-year-old Elena Salas wrapped P2.3 million of her employer's jewelry in cloth, placed it in a plastic bag, and then gave it to a stranger who had called to say her boss was in trouble.

Salas fell for the "dugo-dugo" scam and ended in detention in Makati City Friday.

"I was surprised when I got back home, my employer said her jewelry was missing," said Salas.

For two years, she had been a maid at the condominium of 55-year-old bank employee Carmelita Nepomuceno, who lived in Manhattan Square Condominium on Valero Street, Makati City.

Nepomuceno has filed a qualified theft complaint against Salas for handing her jewelry to a stranger.

But the maid, a Negros Occidental native, said she only did so on the orders of a woman who had called her Thursday afternoon.

She said the woman told her that Nepomuceno had figured in a traffic accident and needed to trade her precious jewelry for cash to pay for damages.

Inspector Marlon Almoguerra, chief of the Makati City police station's theft and robbery section, said the incident was a ploy of the dugo-dugo gang, a group of thieves known for fooling housemaids into handing over their employers' valuables by claiming their bosses were in dire need of money.

Salas related that the woman instructed her to get her employer's jewelry and take a cab to Jaka Plaza in Sucat, Parañaque, where a man would meet her to take the valuables to her employer.

It was only when Salas got back home that she learned that Nepomuceno never met an accident and never ordered anybody to take her jewelry to Parañaque.

In her statement to investigators, Nepomuceno said she saw a knife, hammer and two pairs of scissors near the cabinet where she kept her jewelry. She later discovered her valuables were missing.

Almoguerra said he would ask Nepomuceno to regard Salas as a victim herself, as the maid was simply deceived by the gang.

TAGUIG City Mayor Freddie Tiñga (second from left) leads a tree-planting activity during a recent visit by the Bessie B. Legarda Foundation, Zonta Club of Makati, Environs Foundation and Woman Today. With Tiñga are (from left) Maritess Pineda, Zonta Makati president; Jasmin Chua, Miss Philippines-Water; Nadia Camolli, Miss Philippines-Air, and Tiñga's wife Kaye.

NBI clearance mobile rolls into Antipolo

By Margaux C. Ortiz

BEGINNING next week, people need not flock to the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) office in Carriedo for their clearances.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said the first "NBI on Wheels" project will be launched at Antipolo City Hall on Tuesday morning.

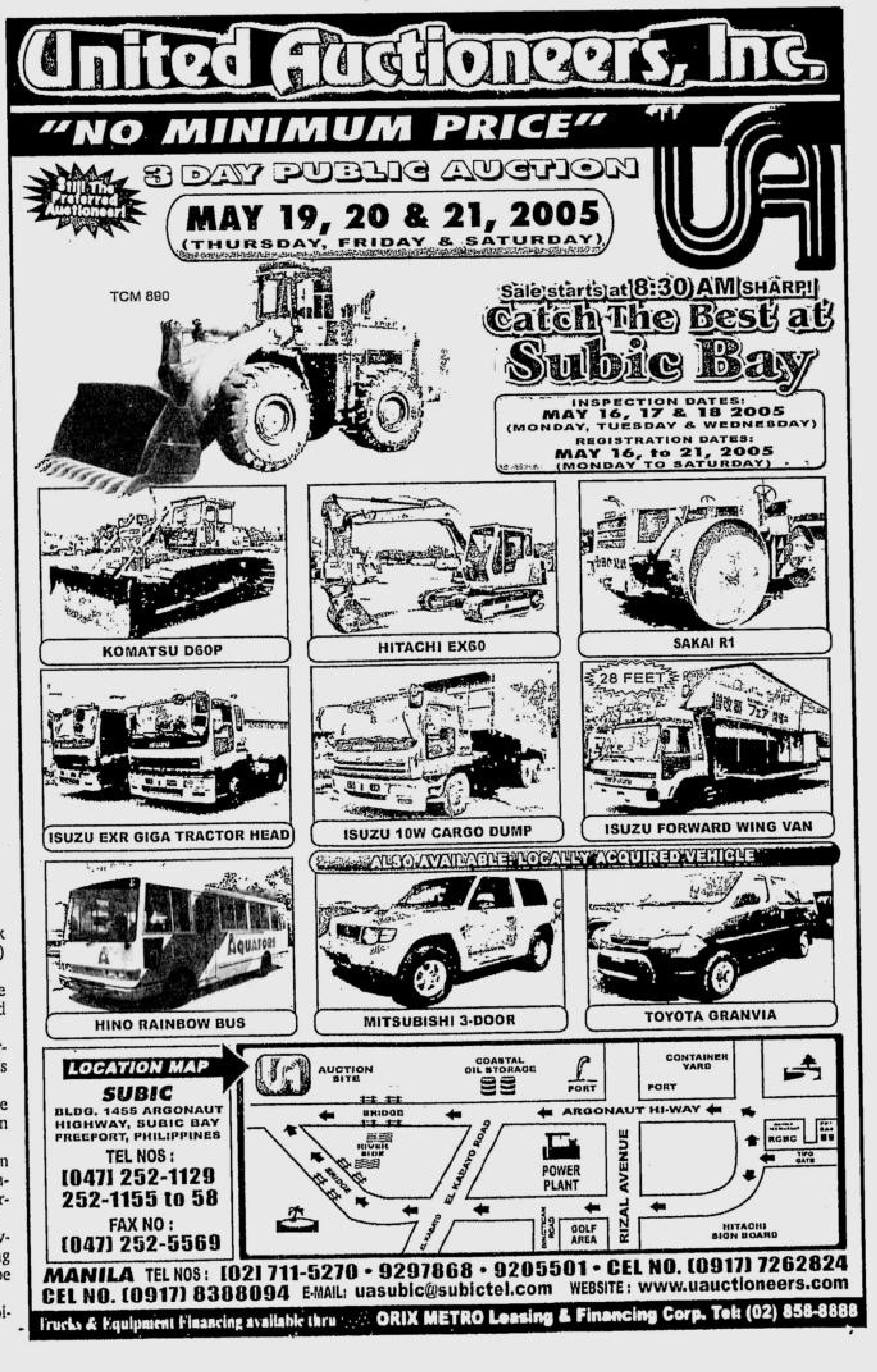
Wycoco said the concept of a mobile clearance center "would bring one of the bureau's primary services closer to the people."

With the project, the bureau aims to issue and renew NBI clearances in areas far from an NBI regional, district or satellite office.

Wycoco explained that the "NBI on Wheels" truck would temporarily be stationed in an NBI regional office with the clearance team reporting to the regional director.

"Notice is given by the NBI to the local government or business district areas requesting for the 'NBI on Wheels' so the public could be informed about the project," he said.

The NBI has chosen Antipolo City as its pilot area.



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Hot Ritualo lifts Express

GAMES TODAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:15 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs Ginebra
6:35 p.m.—San Miguel Beer vs Shell

SAN PABLO CITY—Don't ever ignore Renren Ritualo.

Alaska learned this bitter lesson last night as Ritualo sizzled and boosted FedEx to a methodical 97-89 win in the Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Conference at the Boy Aquino Sports Center.

Ritualo fired 26 points, unloading the last of his three triples to give the Express the lead to stay at 90-86.

The first back-to-back win in the PBA for coach Bong Ramos since taking over from Joe Lipa at the start of the conference lifted the Express to fifth place with a 7-7 record.

The Aces dropped to 9-6 behind the leading 10-5 record of the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals.

Missing the injured Brandon Cablay, the Aces trailed by 60-78 before mounting a rally that brought them within 86-87 in the last quarter.

But Ritualo caught fire again to doom the Aces.

The scores:

FEDEX 97—Ritualo 26, Gonzales 19, Miller 15, Billones 10, De Ocampo 8, Ferriols 6, Arboleda 5, David 4, Dacia 4, Pingris 0, Codinera 0, Victolero 0, Bravo 0.

ALASKA 89—Simpkins 24, Carlaso 22, Cortez 19, Hugnatan 6, Allado 6, Hawkins 4, Thoss 4, Wilson 2, Padilla 2, Duat 0, Tejada 0, Johnson 0.

Quarters: 30-29, 52-39, 78-66, 97-89

'We're out if Chot's out'

By June Navarro

REMOVE Chot Reyes and vanish the thought of a national team backed by Philippine Basketball Association players in the Southeast Asian Basketball Association championships.

"We will only agree to lend our players if Chot (Reyes) is in charge," said PBA commissioner Noli Eala after a breakfast meeting yesterday with Philippine Olympic Committee president Peping Cojuangco.

"Otherwise, the PBA has no choice but to pull out of the Seaba. Chot should have a direct hand on the affairs of the team and that was the condition set by the league's board of governors," he added.

EALA

Meanwhile, Cojuangco refused to be dragged into a verbal war with a BAP official who had accused him of being power hungry in the wake of the local Olympic body's decision to form a basketball committee that will take over the formation of the strongest possible national team to two international competitions.

The creation of the committee chaired by Cojuangco was supported and approved by the BAP and all major stakeholders of the sport.

Spokesperson Joey Romasanta said that the former Tarlac congressman just brushed aside the tirade of BAP legal counsel and spokesperson Boni Alentajan to concentrate on a decision the POC is expected to render tomorrow on the BAP's sudden change of heart.

Romasanta said Alentajan's outburst against Cojuango "only gave him the resolve to expedite his decision on the matter," Romasanta said. *With a report from Musong Castillo*

H. Centre, Toyota win

HARBOUR CENTRE cruised past Negros Navigation-San Beda, 85-69, yesterday to inch closer to an outright semis berth in the PBL Unity Cup at the JCSGO Gym in Cubao.

With Mark Cardona leading the team's attack, the Port Masters easily notched their fourth straight win and eighth overall in 10 games.

With one game left in the elims, the Port Masters can advance outright if Montaña Pawnshop beats bitter rival Welcoat Paints on Tuesday.

In the second game, Toyota Otis-Letran dumped Bacchus Energy Drink, 79-63, to boost its bid to gain a twice-to-beat privilege in the quarterfinal round.

At 6-4, the Knights must win their last game against defending champion Magnolia Ice Cream to secure the bonus incentive in the next round.

Harbour and Montaña will slug it out for the No. 1 position when they clash on Thursday at the La Salle Greenhills. But if Welcoat prevails, the Port Masters need to beat the Jewels to assure themselves of an outright semis slot.

Cardona, the hottest candidate for the MVP award, logged 17 points on top of six rebounds and five steals in 24 minutes of play.

Harbour coach Tonichi Yturri got a little of everything from almost everybody as the Port Masters hardly missed the services of top slotman Gabby Espinas, who was suspended for his involvement in a near-free for all against Toyota Otis-Letran last Thursday.

The scores:

First Game

HARBOUR CENTRE 85—Cardona 17, Bugia 14, Mesina 12, Sanz 8, Tenorio 7, Castro 5, Gatumbato 3, Buenafe 2, Mendoza 2, Dizon 2, Solis 1, Tiongson 0.

NENACO-SBC 69— Aljamal 22, Fasano 18, Bombeo 9, Hudencial 6, Razon 5, Angeles 5, Baldivia 2, Maggay 2, Arbole 0, Timonera 0, Javier 0, Cruz 0, Soriano 0, Antonio 0.

Quarters: 25-16, 44-32, 64-52, 85-69.

Second Game

Toyota-otis 79—Larong 16, Andaya 13, Oreta 10, Capati 8, Piñera 8, Coronel 4, Enrile 4, Macapagal 4, Rodriguez 4, Alcaraz 3, Alonzo 3, Tagupa 2.

Bacchus 63—Uy 10, Holper 10, Cordero 9, Epondulan 9, Nailon 8, Ababla 6, Menor 3, Hubalde 3, Cruz 2, Te 2, Vizcarra 1

Quarters: 17-19, 32-37, 58-53, 79-63.

Jawo, Dalupan named coaches

LEGENDARY coaches Virgilio "Baby" Dalupan and Robert "The Big J" Jaworski have accepted invitations to call the shots for the PBA greatest players clashing in the league's "Greatest Game" to highlight the 30th PBA anniversary festivities this month, PBA commissioner Noli Eala announced Friday night.

To be divided into two teams through drafting, the league's greatest players figure in a classic reunion game on May 28 at the Araneta Coliseum.

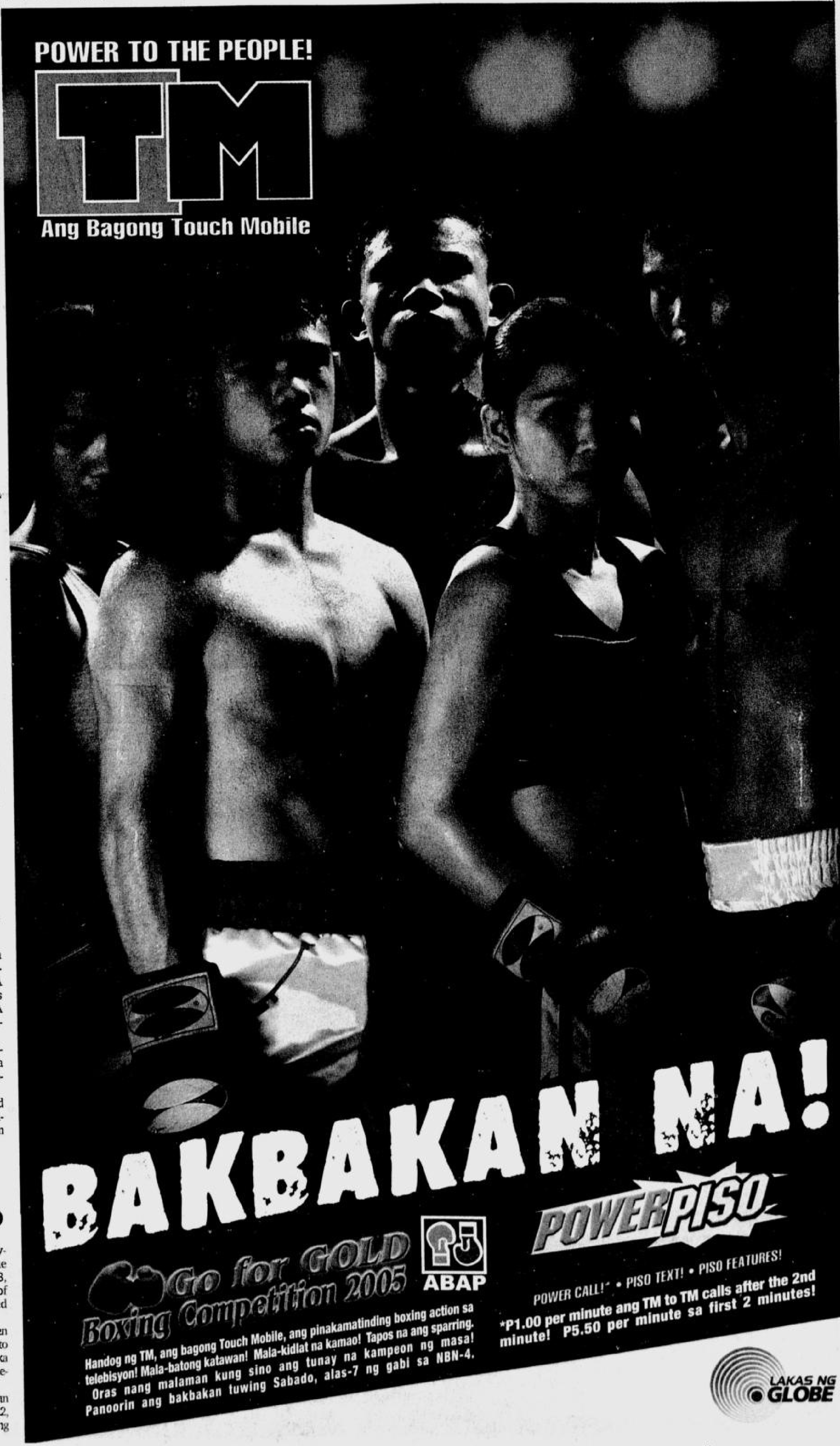
Jaworski and the 24 other players named the league's greatest during the PBA silver anniversary make up the two squads pitted in the Greatest Game.

La Salle spikers turn back Ateneo

LA SALLE put on amazing display of firepower and spoiled arch rival's Ateneo debut in the Shakey's V-League, fashioning out a 25-18, 25-23, 25-20 victory yesterday at the start of the event's 2005-2006 season before a packed crowd at the Ateneo Blue Eagle gym.

The Lady Archers drew strength from Maureen Penetrante, Manilla Santos and Michelle Carolino to neutralize the gutsy plays of the hosts, as the troika combined for 44 points to anchor that team's one-hour and 11-minute victory.

Highlights of the matches, including the UST-San Sebastian game won by SSC, 1025, 25-21, 25-22, 25-14, will be shown over IBC Channel 13 starting at 7 tonight.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NCR, Calabarzon grab Palaro titles

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ILOILO CITY—With precious points coming from basketball following solid performances in swimming and on other fronts all week long, National Capital Region captured the secondary overall championship for the first time in five editions yesterday even as Calabarzon ran away with the elementary title of the Palarong Pambansa here.

San Beda College won the secondary basketball title for the Big City squad with an 80-57 rout of Central Visayas that sealed the victory for NCR.

"We really prepared long and hard for this," said San Beda head coach Ato Badolato after the reigning NCAA junior champs boosted NCR's overall total to 311.5 points.

Calabarzon, buoyed by victories in boys' athletics, baseball, boys' swimming and boys' volleyball, was the runaway champion in the elementary division with 235 points, a feat it last achieved in 1998 in Bacolod when it was still part of powerhouse Southern Tagalog.

Western Visayas, although beaten by NCR in the basketball semifinals last Friday, gained a measure of pride when left winger Peter Subrido hit a penalty kick in the 54th minute to nip NCR for the secondary football title, 1-0, in a game that brought the curtains down on the Palaro at the Iloilo Sports Complex here.

The football victory boosted WV to second place in the high school division with 267 points. Calabarzon took third with 156 followed by Central Visayas (118.7) and Central Luzon (93).

CENTRAL Visayas' Julius Colina and Christopher Sumalinog put up a tight defense on NCR's JR Taganas. JESS YUSON

Team Iguana, Edge on top

By Jasmine W. Payo

ALAMINOS—Leaning on smarts and luck, Team Iguana regained a piece of the lead with Team Edge on Day 7 of the Island Paradise Adventure Race in Pangasinan's famous Hundred Islands Park here.

After slipping to second place in the previous stage, Iguana's Andrew Chinalpan Jr., Orville Bernabe and Dennis Ararao recovered by earning bonus points, while Edge's Nonoy Jopson, Niño Abarquez and Quinito Moras finished with no demerit as both teams shared the lead with 14 points.

Team Iguana suffered a big blow on Day 6 after race officials slapped it with 15 demerit points for violating traffic rules in Vigan City, Ilocos Sur.

"It's all part of the game," said Bernabe after Team Iguana arrived at the pit stop first in its orange Nissan Frontier. "But we're trying to be more careful now."

Beach Volley starts at Clearwater

ANGELES City—The second leg of the 2005 Petron Ladies Beach Volleyball Tournament comes of the wraps at the Clearwater Country Club here today.

"We helped fuel the renaissance of the sport, which is currently enjoying a tremendous following especially this summer," said organizer Tisha Abundo. "I'm elated no end that our efforts are not going down the drain."

Clearwater Country Club president and CEO Nino Sinco will make the ceremonial serve. He will be assisted by Che-Che Tugbang of Petron and Emmy Buccat of Speedo. A P10,000 top purse awaits the winners of the second leg.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER TV GUIDE

Sunday, May 15, 2005

DOKYU Ang Bagong Mata ng Pinoy Documentaries hosted by Anne Torres Wednesday after American Idol ABC

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN 2	A.S.A.P Fanatics		SCQ Reload		The Buzz				Goin' Bulilit		Rated K		TV Patrol World	Search For A Star In A Million		Sunday Family Cinema			
ABC 5		Ringside		PBA										ABCinema					
GMA 7	Gigsters	Love To Love			S-Files				Naka	Mel & Joey Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho	All Star K		Daddy Di Do Du		Sunday Night Box Office				
RPN 9		Golf Power	Auto Extreme	Fotorama		WWE Experience		Smackdown		Navy Ncis		Without A Trace						Alamin Ang Diabetes	The Working President
IBC 13		Lifestyle	Nation's Peacekeeper	America Atbp.		Home Shopping Network		Home Shopping Network		Legacy Of Hero		2005 Japan 9-Ball Festival				Iyo Ang Katarungan	EL SHADDAI		
JackTV		WWE Afterburn		WWE Smackdown				Hip Hop Nation	Ride With Funk Master Flex	WWE Afterburn		WWE Smackdown				Shorties Watching Shorties	The Man Show	Insomniac W/ Dave Attell	Beat The Geeks
Nickelodeon	Girls In Love	Kenan & Kel	As Told By Ginger	Tao Shu The Warrior Boy	Lat, The Kampung Boy					SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	Sabrina, The Teenage Witch	Romeo	Girls In Love	Kenan & Kel	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Hey Arnold!	The Wild Thornberrys
MYX		Urban MYX	MYX Backtrax	Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Take 5	My MYX	MYX Hit Chart				Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Presents		My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX
ETC	Will & Grace	Saturday Night Live		Veronica Mars		American Dreams		One Tree Hill		Queer Eye For The Straight Girl		Average Joe		Rated Oh!	The Insider Weekend	Nip/Tuck		Entertainment Tonight Weekend	
Cinema One				Beautiful Life				Walang Iwanan Paksman		Boy Chico, Hulihin Ben Tumbling				La Fuga					
Studio 23			Spotlight TV	BYK 101	Hotwire TV	Top Gear	Game Plan	Nginig: The Hidden Files		Exposed		Two & A Half Men	Joey	Will & Grace	F.	Digital Tour (10:15PM)		Fastana (11:15PM)	
AXN		CSI: NY (Season I)		Big Shot's Funeral				AXN Shakedown		The Amazing Race 7				CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 5)		Lost		The Contender	
Star World	Arrested Development	The Apprentice		Miss Match		Business Week Asia	Travel Asia	Wild Card/Criss Angel Supernatural Mindfreak		Malcolm In The Middle	The Kumars At No 42	Oprah Prime Time		Parkinson		The Office		Malcolm In The Middle	Oprah Prime Time
CNN	Design 360	World News	International Correspondents	World News	The Daily Show With John Stewart: Global Edition	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	CNN Presents: A Rising Tide: The Threat Of Global Warming		World News	MainSail	World News	The Daily Show With John Stewart: Global Edition	Global Challenges	CNN Business Traveller	Talk Asia	World Sport
National Geographic		Interpol Investigates		Samsung Best Of The Week		Human Edge	Critteram Wildtech Adventure	Hot Science		Air Crash Investigation		Ten Days To Victory				Interpol Investigates		Samsung Best Of The Week	
Solar Sports						GWS Ep.19-2005	WTA '05 Pacific Life Open Indian Wells, USA				NBA TV Daily	NBA Jam L025	Sports Desk	NBA Playoffs Semi-finals Game3					Destination Finals
Lifestyle Network	Dale With Design	Ground Rules	Outer Spaces	Your Private Island	Breathing Room	Back To Basics	Barefoot Contessa	Everyday Italian	Ciao America With Mario	Food Network Special		E! Entertainment Special		50 Hottest Vegas Moments				Style Star	You're Invited
HBO	The Frighteners				The Mirror Has Two Faces				Superbabies: Baby Geniuses 2			The Glimmer Man			Once Upon A Time In Mexico			Gigli (11:10PM)	
Star Movies	Laws Of Attraction			Jawbreaker			Like Mike			Jeepers Creepers 2 (7:15 PM)				Cold Creek Manor				Sleepless In Seattle (11:05PM)	
Cartoon Network										Teen Titans	Megas XLR	The Looney Tunes Show		Cartoon Cartoon Show	Power Rangers Ninja Storm	Duck Dodgers	Codename: Kids Next Door	Samurai Jack	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
ESPN	2004 WPBA Cuetec Cues Florida Classic		Soccer FIFA Fever	Pool/Snooker Premier Snooker League '05				Boxing Series Friday Night Fights				Classic Boxing Ali The Greatest		2004 Spinvitational Table Tennis Championships	2004 Spinvitational Table Tennis Championships	English Premier Football League 2004/05			
Disney Channel	Potatoes And Dragons	Sabrina: The Animated Series	The Legend Of Tarzan	Wicked Science	Kim Possible	Totally Spies	That's So Raven	American Dragon	Phil Of The Future	America's Funniest Home Video	Wonderful World Of Disney			My Wife And Kids	According To Jim	America's Funniest Home Video	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Cinemax	The Birds II: Land's End			Another 48 Hrs.			100 Mile Rule (5:45PM)				Money Talks (7:20PM)			House Of 1000 Corpses			Singles		
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Christy: Choices Of The Heart				Christy: Choices Of The Heart				Word Of Honor				Scar Tissue					
Discovery Channel		Science Mysteries		American Chopper		Rides		Extreme Machines		Hour Asia		Hour China		Discovery Sunday				Power Zone	
Sports Plus				TV Shopping	Blue Angels Classic Day2					Raceworld		Italia Serie A		Get A Grip		Eds Byron Nelson Chmp Day3			
SBN 21		Gabay At Akayon		Buhay Pinoy		SBN Sing Along		Powerline	Gospel Of The Kingdom			Give Us This Day		Behold		The Kingdom Of Jesus Christ		Evening Devotions	

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INQ TV

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Sound Offer galloper to beat today

By Edwin Villanueva, *Contributor*

SOUND Offer may not be convincing in her previous runs. Nevertheless, she will still be the galloper to beat in the second leg of the 2005 Imported Stakes series today at the San Lazaro Leisure Park.

The 5-year-old bay mare from Australia who happens to be a daughter of 1995 Kentucky Derby champion Thunder Gulch lost her last two outings but will try to get her rhythm back when she faces seven other rivals in the 1,500-meter contest.

"*Inaasahan ko na makakabawi siya* (I'm confident she'll bounce back)," said jockey Eldy Salvador.

Sound Offer nailed her biggest win when she humbled West Bound in the second leg of the Santa Ana Championship (March 6), two weeks after placing second to Cover Girl in the "Karera Para sa Puso."

Salvador picked Queen Bearheart and Stowaway Lass as their most dangerous rivals for the P270,000 first prize dangled by the Philracom. Completing the cast are Suppressed (Xaar-Stifled), Heroics (Honour and Glory-Wuji) and Desirable (Voksraad-Grosvenor Sky).

RACING TIPS

AT SLLP BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Good Day 2. Noble Win 3. Diamond Charlie
Race 2—1. Queen of Gaia 2. Divine Right 3. Ocean Dignity 4. All Class
Race 3—1. Khan Caloo 2. Sharon's Cookie 3. Gemstone
Race 4—1. Amazing Firenze 2. Hello Junior 3. Farragut's Order 4. Golden Harry
Race 5—1. Ahoy My Boy 2. Terminator 3. Speed Admiral 4. Better Strike
Race 6—1. Sunline 2. Cara Oura 3. Shades of Red 4. Sutter's Wealth
Race 7—1. Sound Offer 2. Queen Bearheart 3. Stowaway Lass 4. Suppressed
Race 8—1. Speed Machine 2. San Diego Force 3. Guad
Race 9—1. Strong Jays 2. Paradise 3. Hello Mushi 4. Medal's Time
Race 10—1. Silver Eagle 2. Close Account 3. Miracle Music 4. Smiling Jaeda 5. Mr. Speaker 6. Feng Shui
Race 11—1. Rhyme and A Prayer 2. Balwarte 3. Master Ihoy 4. Tout Est Grace
Race 12—1. Mr. Lucas 2. Court General 3. Juan Marco 4. God Is Good
Race 13—1. D As In Dixie/Luck of the Irish 2. Fear Factor 3. Golden Fantasy 4. Air Force One 5. Overture 6. Sambat

SPORTSWATCH

DELO 4x4 Series up

THE CHAMPIONSHIP round of the 2nd leg of the 2005 DELO Sports National Extreme 4x4 Series blasts off at the Quiamco Race Track, San Antonio, Sibulan, Metro Dumaguete City today. The 4-hectare uphill and downhill track inside a coconut plantation is expected to provide the biggest test to the competitors, led by last year's Off-Roader of the Year Timtom Gempesaw and first leg winner Albert Monte de Ramos. Sanctioned by the National Association of Filipino Off-Roaders (NAsFOR), the three-day national 4x4 meet is hosted by the 4x4 Dumaguete Fun Club, headed by Joey Varela, and backed by Caltex DELO Sports.

Title fight in Fistorama

SAMSUNG'S Fistorama features today the Oriental Pacific Boxing Federation's super-featherweight title fight between Filipino champion Randy Suico and Thai challenger Muangfahlek Kiatwichien. The bout was held two weeks ago at the Lapu Lapu Sports Complex in Cebu in a fight card promoted by Rex "Wakee" Salud. Samsung's Fistorama, supported by Samsung, Tanduay, PCSO and Mapecon, is aired at 4 p.m., Sundays on RPN-9.

Kiwanis holds golf tilt

THE KIWANIS club of Dasmariñas-Bagong Bayan invitational golf tournament will be held at North Woods Golf & Country Club in San Rafael, Bulacan, on May 20. This event will be for the benefit of the less fortunate children of Dasmariñas, Cavite. For inquiry, call 4043387 or 0917-8252638 and look for Cesar Cruz.

adidas Streetball regional

STREET basketball action heats up in Baguio today as eight teams clashed in the Luzon finals of the 10th adidas Streetball Challenge at SM Baguio. Pampanga's Holy Angel University heads the field with its Team Barracks and Team Allude all set to strut their wares against equally-talented rivals. The Holy Angel U cagers swept the seniors and girls divisions of the Pampanga elims to join the winners of the other qualifiers in Naga, Lipa and Baguio.

Daymiels cop titles

GINALEE and Ronald Daymiel turned the JVC Davao Regional Badminton Championships into a family affair when they swept the singles crowns in the elite division at the Wheels and More Drive in Bajada, Davao City late Friday. Ginalee thwarted Jovallyn Cabañero, 11-9, 11-6, in the ladies finals while Ronald prevailed over Julius Magallanes, 15-10, 15-2, in the men's side. Julie Gimena and Andre Babad won in the juniors side with Gimena beating Sheira Suico, 11-3, 4-11, 11-4, for the girls crown and Babad taming brother Joseph, 17-14, 15-10, to cop the boys title.

Central golfest tomorrow

THE NOKIA intervillage golf series winds up its first round eliminations at The Riviera's Couples course tomorrow with six teams clashing for three berths in the central sector tournament. Magallanes bested Bel-Air to top last year's event for villages in Makati and Mandaluyong and is favored again in the event sponsored by telecommunications giant Nokia. Skippered by Emil Alviar, Magallanes hopes to draw firepower from Brixton Aw, Mike Alviar and Gerry Morada.

Superfights 2 returns

THE CROWD-DRAWING "Superfights 2-Cock Ulutan Fastest Win" returns at Pasay City Cockpit on Wednesday with over 250 participants. Sponsors are Sagupaan Complexor 3000, Sagupaan Mite Free and Sagupaan B-50 Forten. Pit managers Eric dela Rosa, Butchoy Olano and Roming Vergara said guaranteed prize is P500,000 for an entry fee of P2,200. The first fight starts at 7 a.m. For inquiries, contact 843 -1890, 843 -1746 and 816-6750.

Espina prevails

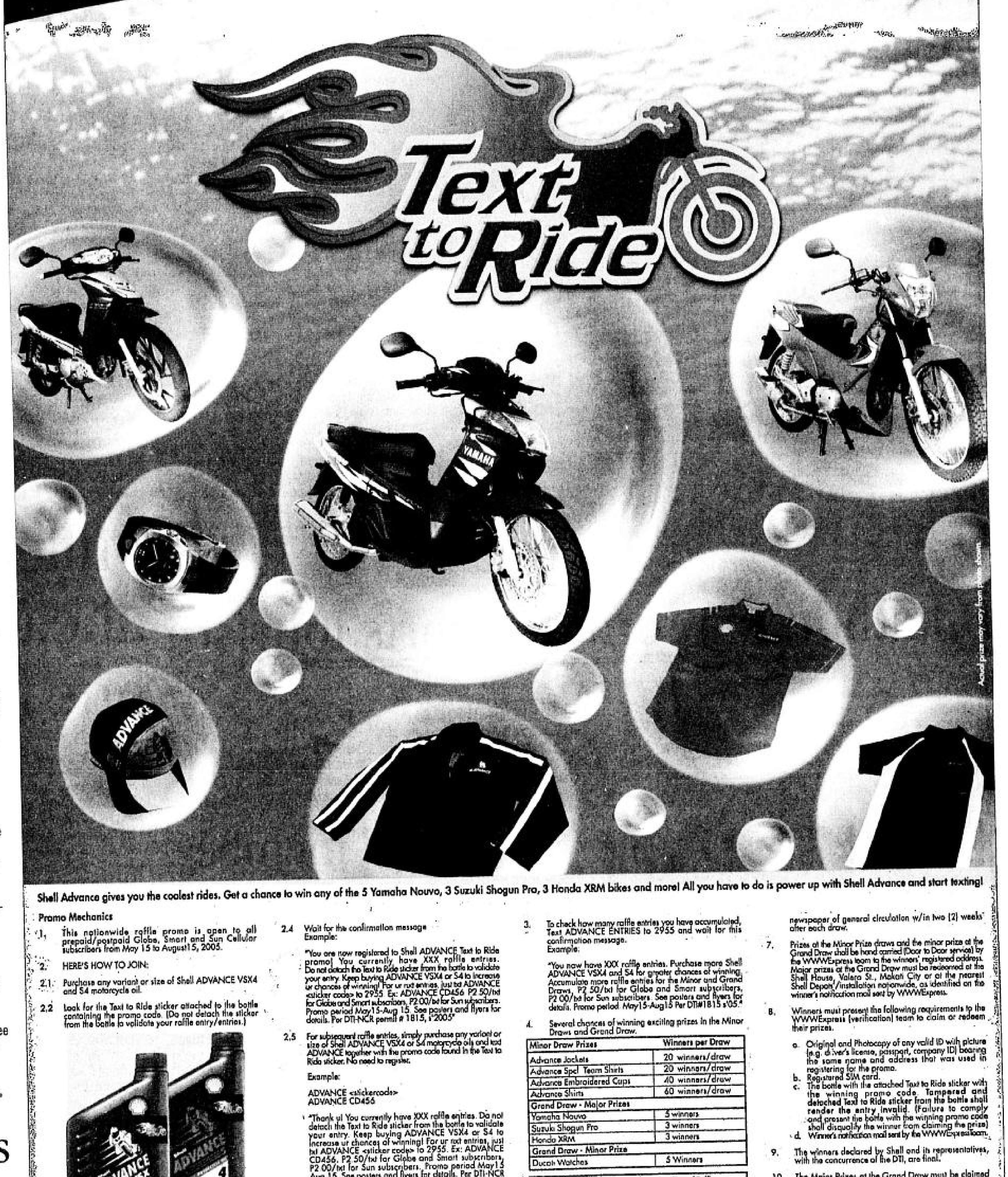
THE YELLOW-LEGGED Kelso Roundheads, noted for it's blinding speed and powerful wallops, were the secret weapons of Biliran Rep. Gerry "Boy" Espina in capturing the solo championship of the National Cockers Association (NCA) 7-Cock Derby Thursday night at Araneta Coliseum.

Espina caught everyone by surprise when he fielded the imported Kelso Roundheads which just arrived from the United States.

His signature entry, Mt. Panamao, hurdled the qualifying round with a perfect score of three wins, then routed the top favorites in the finals for a spectacular 7-0 (win-loss) record.

After surviving the tough challenge posed by Binangonan Balbina of former ambassador Danding Cojuangco, Complexor 3000 of sabong idol Patrick Antonio and Colorado Mulawin of Frankie Uy, Espina's fighter then trounced the PEBR II of 2004 NCA Cocker of the Year Pol Estrellado for the title. Espina's Mt. Panamao emerged runners-up in two NCA derbies recently.

Shell
ADVANCE
MOTORCYCLE OILS



Shell Advance gives you the coolest rides. Get a chance to win any of the 5 Yamaha Nouvo, 3 Suzuki Shogun Pro, 3 Honda XRM bikes and more! All you have to do is power up with Shell Advance and start texting!

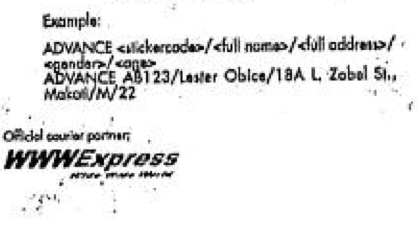
Promo Mechanics

1. This nationwide raffle promo is open to all prepaid/postpaid Globe, Smart and Sun Cellular subscribers from *May 15* to August15, 2005.

2. HERE'S HOW TO JOIN:

2.1 Purchase any variant or size of Shell ADVANCE VSX4 and S4 motorcycle oil.

2.2 Look for the Text to Ride sticker attached to the bottle containing the promo code. (Do not detach the sticker from the bottle to validate your raffle entry/entries.)



SHELL ADVANCE. MORE LIFE FOR BIKES.

2.3 Text in ADVANCE, the promo code together with your full name, full address, gender and age. Only one registered name per SIM is allowed.

***Note: The cost for each successful message sent is Php 2.50 for Globe and Smart subscribers. For Sun Cellular subscribers, cost per text message is Php 2.00.

Example:

ADVANCE <stickercode>/<full name>/<full address>/<gender>/<age>
ADVANCE AB123/Lester Obice/18A L. Zobel St., Makati/M/22

Official courier partner:
WWWExpress

2.4 Wait for the confirmation message
Example:

"You are now registered to Shell ADVANCE Text to Ride promo! You currently have XXX raffle entries. Do not detach the Text to Ride sticker from the bottle to validate your entry. Keep buying ADVANCE VSX4 or S4 to increase ur chances of winning! For ur nxt entries, just txt ADVANCE <sticker code> to 2955. Ex: ADVANCE CD456. P2.50/txt for Globe and Smart subscribers, P2.00/txt for Sun subscribers. Promo period May15-Aug 15. See posters and flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR permit # 1815, s'2005"

2.5 For subsequent raffle entries, simply purchase any variant or size of Shell ADVANCE VSX4 or S4 motorcycle oils and text ADVANCE together with the promo code found in the Text to Ride sticker. No need to register.

Example:

ADVANCE <stickercode>
ADVANCE CD456

"Thank u! You currently have XXX raffle entries. Do not detach the Text to Ride sticker from the bottle to validate your entry. Keep buying ADVANCE VSX4 or S4 to increase ur chances of winning! For ur nxt entries, just txt ADVANCE <sticker code> to 2955. Ex: ADVANCE CD456. P2.50/txt for Globe and Smart subscribers, P2.00/txt for Sun subscribers. Promo period May15 Aug 15. See posters and flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR permit # 1815, s'2005"

For unsuccessful or incomplete registration format, you will receive this reply message from the ADVANCE info service:

"Sorry, the information you sent is INCOMPLETE. Kindly text in this format & send to 2955: ADVANCE <sticker code>/<full name>/<full address>/<gender>/<age> Ex.: ADVANCE AB123/Lester Obice/18A L. Zobel St., Makati /M/22. For Inquiries, text ADVANCE HELP to 2955. P2.50/txt for Globe and Smart subscribers, P2.00/txt for Sun subscribers. See posters and flyers for details. Promo period: May15-Aug15 Per DTI#1815 s'05."

2.6 A promo code can only be texted/used once to earn entries.

2.7 Equivalent raffle entries per variant:

Variant	No. of Raffle Entries Earned
VSX4	5 Raffle Entries
S4	2 Raffle Entries

3. To check how many raffle entries you have accumulated, Text ADVANCE ENTRIES to 2955 and wait for this confirmation message.
Example:

"You now have XXX raffle entries. Purchase more Shell ADVANCE VSX4 and S4 for greater chances of winning. Accumulate more raffle entries for the *Minor* and Grand Draws. P2.50/txt for Globe and Smart subscribers, P2.00/txt for Sun subscribers. See posters and flyers for details. Promo period May15-Aug15 Per DTI#1815 s'05."

4. Several chances of winning exciting prizes in the Minor Draws and Grand Draw.

Minor Draw Prizes	Winners per Draw
Advance Jackets	20 winners/draw
Advance Spcl Team Shirts	20 winners/draw
Advance Embroidered Cups	40 winners/draw
Advance Shirts	60 winners/draw
Grand Draw - Major Prizes	
Yamaha Nouvo	5 winners
Suzuki Shogun Pro	3 winners
Honda XRM	3 winners
Grand Draw - Minor Prize	
Ducati Watches	5 Winners

Minor Draw Dates	Time & Date of SMS Cut-Off	Time of Raffle Draw/Venue
May 30	11:59 PM of May 29	2:00 PM at Shell House
June 15	11:59 PM of June 14	2:00 PM at Shell House
June 30	11:59 PM of June 29	2:00 PM at Shell House
July 15	11:59 PM of July 14	2:00 PM at Shell House
July 29	11:59 PM of July 28	2:00 PM at Shell House
Grand Draw		
August 16	11:59 PM of August 15	3:00 PM at Shell House

***Non-winning entries will still be included in the succeeding draws.

5. A participant can only win once per draw. If a name is drawn more than once he/she gets the prize of the higher value or greater value. Only registered participants can win.

6. Winners will be notified through SMS via 2955 and a winner's notification mail to be sent by WWWExpress. A complete list of winners will also be published in a newspaper of general circulation w/in two (2) weeks after each draw.

7. Prizes at the Minor Prize draws and the minor prize at the Grand Draw shall be hand carried (Door to Door service) by the WWWExpress team to the winners' registered address. Major prizes at the Grand Draw must be redeemed at the Shell House, Valero St., Makati City or at the nearest Shell Depot/installation nationwide, as identified on the winner's notification mail sent by WWWExpress.

8. Winners must present the following requirements to the WWWExpress (verification) team to claim or redeem their prizes.

a. Original and Photocopy of any valid ID with picture (e.g. driver's license, passport, company ID) bearing the same name and address that was used in registering for the promo.
b. Registered SIM card.
c. The bottle with the attached Text to Ride sticker with the winning promo code. Tampered and detached Text to Ride sticker from the bottle shall render the entry invalid. (Failure to comply and present the bottle with the winning promo code shall disqualify the winner from claiming the prize)
d. Winner's notification mail sent by the WWWExpress Team.

9. The winners declared by Shell and its representatives, with the concurrence of the DTI, are final.

10. The Major Prizes at the Grand Draw must be claimed within 60 days after receipt of the winning SMS via 2955 and the winner's notification mail sent by WWWExpress, or else, shall be forfeited in favor of Shell, with prior DTI approval.

11. All prizes are tax-free, not convertible to cash and not transferable. Registration of the motorcycle in the name of the winner shall be shouldered by Shell.

12. All employees of Shell, their Agencies/Third Parties, its Dealers and Employees, Smart Communications Inc., Globe Telecommunications, Inc., Sun Cellular and their relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promo.

13. Text in ADVANCE OFF to 2955 to refrain from receiving unsolicited messages on the promo.

14. For further delivery queries please call the WWWExpress Hotline at 879-8888 or text in ADVANCE HELP <your question> to 2955.

See Posters and Flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No 1815, Series of 2005

Department of Tourism's
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OVERALL STANDINGS • END OF LEG 7 of 9 • VIGAN to ALAMINOS, 284 kms • MAY 13

WATCH THE ARRIVAL OF RACE PARTICIPANTS AND AWARDING OF WINNERS AT 6 PM ON MAY 15, 2005, EASTWOOD CITY

TOBY'S PITMAN — 13 — Demerits: 55
NOMADS TEAM-CONQUER — 12 — Demerits: 52
HABAGAT-SHELL — 11 — Demerits: 50
PASAWAY GR8.CAR-KM/2 — 10 — Demerits: 46
DA PAYATOTS — 9 — Demerits: 43
THIRD WORLD OUTDOOR-SHELL — 8 — Demerits: 41
SIDEWAYS — 7 — Demerits: 30
TOYOTA HILUX ALL TERRAIN — 6 — Demerits: 28
TEAM TRIBU (DAVAO TEAM) — 5 — Demerits: 24
MP TURBO — 4 — Demerits: 20
HONDA BLAZERS — 3 — Demerits: 17
IGUANA — 2 — Demerits: 15
TEAM VUDU AUDIONET (EDGE) — 1 — Demerits: 14

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Eastwood City
EZ MAP
Medamee Communications

Annika leads; Jenny 13 down

STOCKBRIDGE, Georgia—One week after failing to make LPGA Tour history with her sixth straight win, Annika Sorenstam is running away from a strong field at the Chick-fil-A Charity Championship.

The world's No. 1 player shot a dazzling 8-under 64 during Friday's second round at Eagles Landing Country Club, giving her a six-stroke lead midway through the tournament.

Defending champion Jennifer Rosales of the Philippines, only two shots off the lead after the first day, struggled with a 76 and was 13 strokes behind Sorenstam.

It's the biggest 36-hole lead in a four-round event since Sorenstam's 59 at the 2001 Standard Register Ping in Arizona gave her an eight-stroke cushion. She held on for a two-shot win over Se Ri Pak.

So far, there's no indication that anyone can get that close to Sorenstam in this event. Her driver is overwhelming the dried-out course with booming shots off the tee. Her irons are struck with the precision of a radar honing in on its target. Her putts are firm and true.

Sorenstam has yet to make a bogey, leaving everyone else in the field that includes 92 of the top 100 money-winners from 2004 in a battle for second place. First-round leader Laura Davies faded with a 76, 11 strokes off Sorenstam. AP

SORENSTAM REUTERS

Wang paces Macau Open; Miñoza 10 off

MACAU—Taiwanese veteran Wang Ter-chang carded a 4-under-par 67 Saturday to take a one-stroke lead heading into the final round of the Macau Open.

Edward Loar trails in second place after firing eight birdies for a 66. The American would have had the lead if he hadn't bogeyed three holes at the 6,027-meter (6,624-yard) course at the Macau Golf and Country Club.

Filipino Frankie Miñoza shot a 70 for a 212 total that left him in a nine-way tie for 24th. Compatriot Gerald Rosales, meanwhile, shot a 72 for a 214 to join 10 others at 40th. *AP*

The letter

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

THEY call it "palabra de honor." Word of honor. You honor what you say, though the heavens may fall, so to speak.

It is so called because there is no need for a signed document to precede the pact. It simply is your word that matters.

It's a time-honored trait. Probably as old as jueteng, or any form of gambling for that matter. Probably even older than treachery, treason if you will, but definitely, this virtue came ahead of the invention of paper.

In "palabra de honor," you don't need a paper to make official an agreement. The spoken word will suffice.

It still had adherents in the Seventies, Eighties. I can cite you one:

Baby Dalupan and the late Danny Floro (he'd be 81 tomorrow had he not left this world in 1995) never signed a contract making Dalupan head coach of Crispa. A mere handshake was proof of their contract. And yet, Dalupan went on to give Floro, Crispa's most admired manager, his first of two Grand Slams in the PBA in 1976. I was told Fred Uytengsu and Tim Cone of Alaska also hold a paperless contract in the PBA?

It's a dying trait now. And alas, seemingly, only the intrepid 5-6 practitioners in our midst are left to embrace "palabra de honor." Ironic as it may seem, it thrives in our market places, where poor folk—our *palengkeras*, especially—cling to it like barnacles to survive the daily grind in the city.

"Palabra de honor" was observed to the hilt in the olden days because people back then were not only good at listening, they were also good at not forgetting what they heard. They remembered every word said to them. They heeded an agreement down to the last "word." To forget what has been said was then tantamount to a dishonor to the family name. One accused of reneging on his word would virtually consign him to a life of solitude, if not derision.

But the times, in the words of Bob Dylan, "they are a-changin'."

These days, you need to write everything down.

You don't do it in black and white, you have nothing to stand on.

You don't have a document, duly signed, you are as lost as a kitten up a tree.

You don't have the other party's signature in a contract, you hold a piece of paper as useless as a broken pipe.

But then, these days, too, even if you hold a document duly signed by all persons witness to a covenant, it could still be thrashed, its contents dishonored with impunity. That seems to be what the Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP) has just done. After signing a pact giving Peping Cojuangco, president of the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC), the power to lead a basketball mission this year, the BAP suddenly backtracks and issues a statement in the papers that it will no longer honor that pact.

What's this we're witnessing, a game that children play?

Hey, as I was saying, we are supposed to be adults here. We talk as men, not as kids whose word is as fragile as an eggshell.

A visibly irked Peping has written the BAP, expressing disgust over the BAP's sudden 360-degree turn and demanding a reply three days upon receipt of the letter, which was on Friday, May 13.

The BAP has requested for a postponement in answering Peping's letter, which should be reaching Peping's offices by tomorrow, May 16, as promised by the BAP.

The BAP has only to choose between telling Peping "we are honoring our commitment to support your basketball program," or deciding to proceed with "our earlier decision to renege on the pact of April 25." That simple.

I can't wait to see the contents of the letter. Will they be nuggets of wisdom resulting in a happy ending to all this brouhaha?

Your guess is as good as mine.

Bikathon to promote sports tourism

THE 10-STAGE Golden Tour has earned a principal backer in Tanduay and will also pitch in in the promotion of sports tourism in the event set May 26 to June 5.

To be dubbed the Tanduay Golden Tour, the race, staged in cooperation with the Department of Tourism, will cover more than 1,500 kms from down south in Lucena City to up north in heritage-rich Vigan.

And to truly celebrate the fabled Tour's golden anniversary, the organizers, led by Dos-1's Reuben Pangan, and T&G Tourism and Development Corp.'s Patrick Gregorio will honor the country's cycling greats.

The stages: Stage 1 May 26-Quezon City to Lucena City 155 kms (massed start or MS), Stage 2 May 27-Lucena City to Tagaytay City 160 kms (MS), Stage 3 May 28-Nasugbu to Tagaytay 40 kms (Sea Games ITT route), Stage 4 May 29-Malolos to Olongapo 133.6 kms (MS), Stage 5 May 30-Olongapo to Alaminos 197 kms (MS), May 31 is rest day, Stage 6 June 1-Lingayen to Vigan 230 kms (MS), Stage 7 June 2-Vigan to Baguio 217 kms (MS), Stage 8 June 3-Baguio to Baguio 175 kms (MS), Stage 9 June 4-Baguio to Angeles City 185 kms (MS) and Stage 10 June 5-Manila Criterium 80 kms (Luneta Circuit).

BE THE BEST
Milo-BEST, the oldest and biggest youth basketball development program is again attracting big numbers of participants in its ongoing nationwide summer basketball clinics organized by the Basketball Efficiency Scientific Training (BEST) Center of founder Nic Jorge. Among the Metro Manila venues of Milo-BEST are Ateneo in Katipunan, JRU in Mandaluyong, San Beda College in Manila and Alabang and Notre Dame. For inquiries, call 4116260 or 3723065.

PowerBowl member scores perfect games

JEFF Chan, an 18-year-old member of TBAM Juniors and Team Prima, scored a record two consecutive perfect games during the singles event of the recently concluded 13th TBAM Juniors-Prima Pasta Open Championships.

Chan, who idolizes four-time World Cup champion Paeng Nepomuceno, started slow with 184 in his first game and then recovered with a 259 on the second game followed by two perfect games to finish with a 4-game series total of 1043 (260.75 average).

It is the first back-to-back 300 (24 strikes in a row) in the history of Philippine bowling. Chan also became the first bowler to score back-to-back perfect games in a Philippine Bowling Congress-sanctioned event.

CHAN

Chan, who started bowling when he was 12 years old and gave credit to his coach, Mer Tan and his father, Jose Chan, eventually won the Juniors/Majors Division title during the Masters Finals with a superb average of 232 over 12 games, besting other 11 finalists.

Jeff is a member of the newly-formed PowerBowl Youth Team, pioneered by PowerBowl Bowling Center through the generous support of Rockwell Land Corporation chairman Manolo Lopez. The program aims to provide training and exposure to young and talented bowlers in the country.

After seven Tiger misse

Streak ends with heartbr

IRVING, Texas—Tiger Woods studied the line from both directions, consulted his caddie, then settled in over a 15-foot par putt on the final hole that was packed with the quiet tension normally found in a playoff at a major championship.

It was only a Friday at the Byron Nelson Championship, a rare time for Woods to feel so much heat. The putt wasn't for a trophy, but for the longest cut streak in US PGA Tour history.

"Every guy in the locker room was watching," Jesper Parnevik said. "We're not allowed to bet, but guys were offering $1,000 he would make it."

That's because Woods always seems to do just that, but not this time.

His putt broke gently toward the right of the cup, then straightened out and trickled inches by, a dramatic end to one of the greatest streaks in sports.

"I just had a tough day," Woods said. "Things I don't normally do, I did today.

"What is it? Seven years? That's not too bad. I just tried to bandage my way to the finish. I figured it was even par, and I needed to make par."

A bogey on the 18th hole at Cottonwood Valley gave Woods a 2-over 72 and put him at 1 over par for the tournament, missing the cut by a shot for the first time in seven years and 142 tournaments.

"It was always going to come to an end eventually, wasn't it?" Robert Allenby said. "Obviously, it was a hell of a feat. That record will never be broken."

The streak dated to the 1998 Pebble Beach National Pro-Am, when Woods withdrew after two rounds instead of returning nearly seven months later to complete the rain-delayed tournament. The cut is made after 54 holes at Pebble Beach because it is played on three courses. The only other time he missed the cut in his 10 years on tour was at the 1997 Canadian Open at Royal Montreal.

Sean O'Hair, the 22-year-old rookie who turned pro before he left high school, shot 65 to join journeyman Brett Wetterich (67) atop the leaderboard at 9-under 131.

Vijay Singh, who likely will return to No. 1 in the world next week, had a 67, and Phil Mickelson shot 66 to be among those four shots behind. Ernie Els birdied the final hole for a 72 and was at 4-under 136.

Els now has the longest active cut streak on tour—20.

The longest active streak in golf belongs to Annika Sorenstam at 48 on the LPGA Tour.

"I've got about a hundred to go," Sorenstam said from Atlanta. "What a great run, especially with the competition on the PGA Tour. It's too bad to see such a great run finished."

Perhaps it was only fitting that the end of Woods' record streak came at this tournament. Byron Nelson for years held the record, 113 consecutive cuts during the 1940s. Woods broke that at

Miller puts Pacers ahead; Suns win one for Johnson

DALLAS—With injured teammate Joe Johnson watching from home, Phoenix easily replaced his outside game while Amare Stoudemire took care of everything inside, leading the Suns to a 119-102 victory over the Dallas Mavericks on Friday.

Phoenix now takes a 2-1 lead in their second-round series.

"We got one for Joe," said Steve Nash, who had 27 points. "We stuck together and got behind one another. We're a resilient team."

"We miss JJ a lot. He is going to be an all-star in this league," Nash added.

Johnson underwent surgery after suffering a displaced left orbital bone fracture.

The starting guard got injured when he was fouled by Dallas' Jerry Stackhouse on a dunk attempt in Game 2.

Stoudemire dominated the paint again for 37 points, 14 rebounds and five blocks. Nash set him up with 17 assists, his career playoff best. Shawn Marion, who was 7-of-17 on 3s the previous six games this postseason, went 5-of-7 behind the arc and scored 21 points. Quentin Richardson scored all 12 of his points on 3s. As a team, Phoenix was 11-of-22 on 3-pointers to Dallas' 1-for-18.

"I came out wanting to set a tone, let them know we're here to play," said Stoudemire, who became the first Phoenix player to score at least 30 points in three straight playoff games.

The Suns led just 97-96 with 5:50 to go, then pulled away with a 15-0 run.

"We stuck with it tonight," said Nash. "In first half we were little bit sloppy, but in second half we were more confident and went on our run."

Pacers 79, Pistons 74

In Indianapolis, Reggie Miller looked right at home in the final minutes, despite an 0-for-7 performance from 3-point range as Indianapolis edged Detroit.

With fans chanting his name, Miller sank four free throws and made a key jumper in the final 81 seconds. Miller finished with 17 points to lead the Pacers, who rallied after blowing a 13-point fourth-quarter lead. Jamaal Tinsley added 16 points and Jeff Foster had 12 rebounds.

Following a timeout, Miller came off a patented screen and

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the 2004 Tour Championship, one of 31 events during his streak that had no cut. His streak in tournaments with a 36-hole cut ended at 111.

"Just the streak in itself is amazing," said Kevin Sutherland, who played with Woods and Peter Lonard the first two days. "I don't think people realize how difficult it is to make that many in a row. That shows how hard he plays every time he tees it up."

Asked to comment about the end of the streak, Lonard smiled and said, "It wasn't my fault."

No, this was all on Woods. He caught Cottonwood Valley, typically the easier of the two courses at the Nelson, on a day when gusts were up to 30 mph (48 kph) and the greens were firm.

Some 1,500 fans surrounded the 18th green, most of them unaware what was at stake. They wouldn't have known much from Woods' reaction after he missed the putt. His shoulders slumped ever so slightly, and he tapped in for bogey, just like any other putt.

Only three players have made more than 100 straight cuts—Woods at 142, Nelson at 113, Jack Nicklaus at 105.

"It's probably more impressive than all the tournaments he's won," Parnevik said. "Most guys out here, you have one bad day and you go home. Even on a bad day, he was able to scramble around and make cuts. He probably has the toughest heart of anyone who ever played this game. That record will never be broken again." *AP*

TIGER Woods finally ends his record of weekend appearances, a record many feel will never be broken. AP

National boxing tilt under way

THE RED carpet has been rolled out for more than 200 boxers representing 21 teams from all over the country who will be competing in the National Youth and Women's Amateur Boxing Championships that open today (Sunday, May 15) in Puerto Princesa City.

No less than Mayor Edward Hagedorn has assured all athletes, officials and guests of Puerto Princesa's patented hospitality and expertise in organizing major sports events.

"We welcome all the athletes, officials and guests to the city of Puerto Princesa," said Hagedorn on the eve of the opening ceremonies at 2 p.m. today at the Puerto Princesa Coliseum.

The boxing spectacle is organized by the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines headed by Manny Lopez.

The National Youth and Women's Amateur Championships will feature competitions in Kids (11 weight divisions), School Boys (16), Cadet (13) and Junior (12) and 13 weight classes in Female category for boxers over 17 years but under 34.

Competitions formally start beginning at 3 p.m. tomorrow.

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R: Still at it REUTERS

ed to give Lindsey Hunter t shove with his arm before a 21-footer with 10 seconds left to seal things.

players should decide it," coach Rick Carlisle said.

referee didn't make a call, er it was a charge or flop, ggie made the shot."

ving Reggie in the end is a good thing," center Jeff said. "We know that we unt in him."

Pacers now lead the best-n series 2-1. *AP, AFP*

NBA coach highlights Nike clinic

DENVER Nuggets assistant coach Jarrin Akana is coming to the Philippines to lend his expertise and basketball know-how to coaches and players of the Nike Summer League.

Akana, who is entering his fourth season as deputy coach of the vastly improved Denver Nuggets, will blow into town on May 18, in time for the coaches' clinic slated the following day.

"We are very excited to have Coach Akana conduct the Nike Summer League clinics," said Deeda Pama, Nike's marketing manager. "I'm sure this will be one of the tournament highlights."

The coaches' clinic on May 19 from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Emilio Aguinaldo College Sports Center will be participated in by the country's finest young mentors who are calling the shots for all of the 20 teams currently strutting their stuff in the ongoing Nike Summer League. Members of the Basketball Coaches Association of the Philippines (BCAP) are also expected to attend the basketball workshop/seminar.

"I think it is a must that our coaches should learn a thing or two from coach Akana," said Nike Summer League commissioner Alvin Patrimonio.

On May 20, it will be the players' turn to learn from coach Akana in a one-day clinic slated from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

rlington Cup starts today

lvarez of Shell will be the special t the opening ceremonies of the season of the Burlington Friendship day at the Philippine Buddhacare ny Gym in Quezon City.

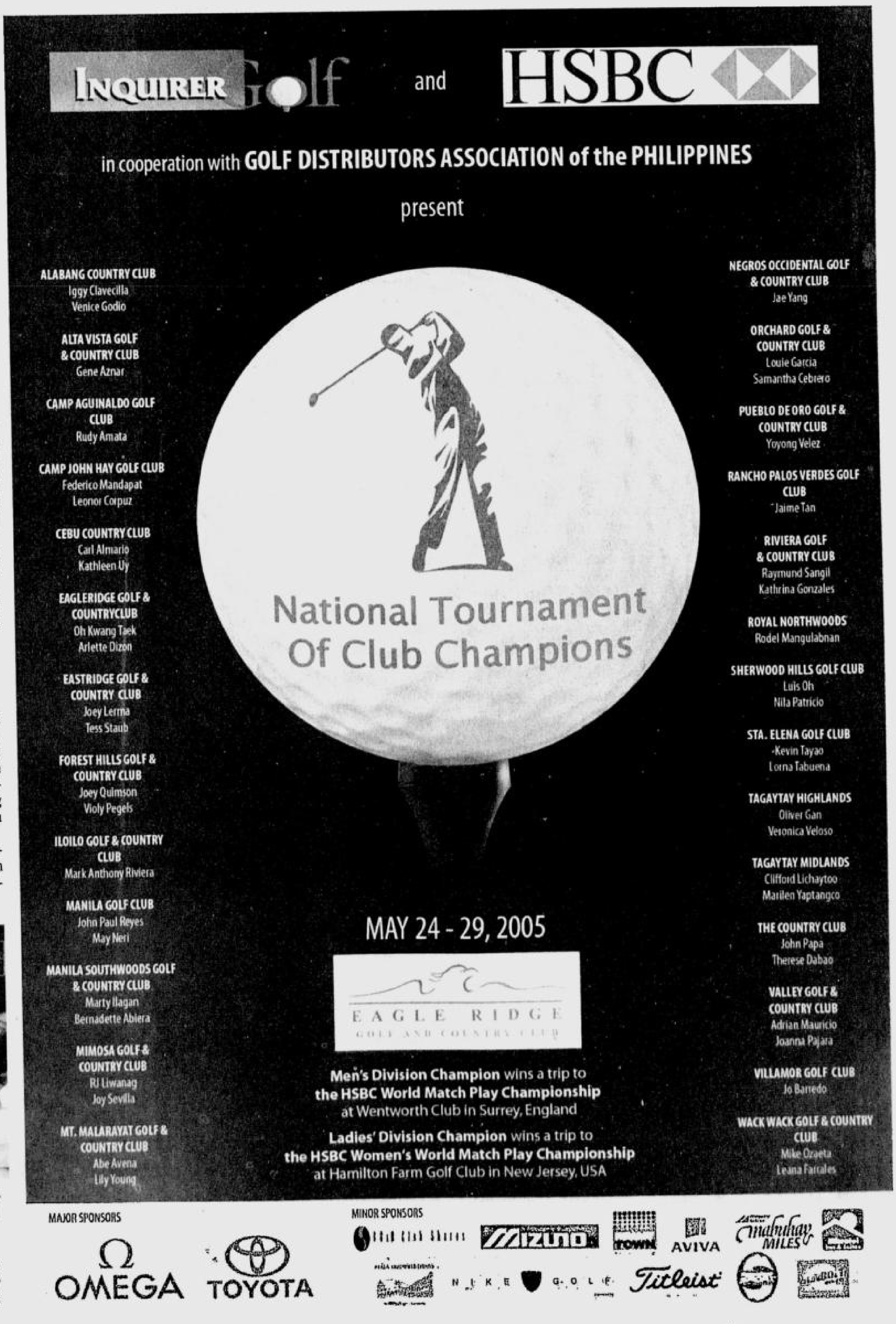
rez, a top contender for PBA Rookhe Year and an image model of ton Shocks XT, will give an inspiralk. The league is backed by Memgic, Jimac and Accel.

expect to have a more exciting ment this 2005 with the entry of Phil Star and Monica Publishing ," said Ruddy Tan of sponsoring firm Burlington.

Commissioner Eusebio "Boy" Ong said the participation of newcomer Wilcon Builders, a recent champion of a commercial league, and the presence of defending champion GNC makes this year's edition interesting.

Completing the TEAMSPORTS -organized event are Memory Magic, Wilcon Builders, Shocks XT, LA Gear, Chloe Lighting, LLQC-Trogs and Amigo Steel.

P women's basketball team and its coaching staff, seeking to improve on their medal finish in the 2003 Vietnam SEA Games, draw some finer points of the om multititled cager Hector Calma, project director of San Miguel Corp's rship of the squad's training for this year's Manila Southeast Asian Games. th women's team head coach Raymund Celis (second from left) are assistant s Shellalyn Gabagat (left) and Bernie David (fourth from left). As part of their mes training, the squad which likewise has the support of San Miguel Beer is ly preparing for the 21st Fiba-Asia Championship on June 19-26 in China.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1. THE INTERPRETER
2. SIX
3. AMITYVILLE HORROR
4. xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
5. THE WEDDING DATE
6. ANG LAGUSAN
7. RESERVED
8. RESERVED
9. RESERVED
10. KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
11. CAN THIS BE LOVE
12. IN GOOD COMPANY

sm city fairview

1. THE INTERPRETER
2. SAMARA: RING 2
3. SAHARA
4. KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
5. CAN THIS BE LOVE
6. xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
7. THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
8. THE PACIFIER
9. SIX
10. RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
11. THE WEDDING DATE
12. GUESS WHO

sm city north edsa

1. KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2. THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
3. RESERVED
4. CAN THIS BE LOVE
5. ARE WE THERE YET?
6. HEAD IN THE CLOUDS
7. IN GOOD COMPANY
8. xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL

sm city manila

1. THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
2. SIX
3. IN GOOD COMPANY
4. KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
5. THE WEDDING DATE
6. xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
7. GUESS WHO
8. THE INTERPRETER
9. CAN THIS BE LOVE
10. SAHARA
11. RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
12. SAMARA: RING 2

sm city sta. mesa

1. KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2. POOH HEFFALUMP MOVIE
3. THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
4. RESERVED
5. RESERVED
6. MISS CONGENIALITY 2
7. CAN THIS BE LOVE
8. xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
9. HEAD IN THE CLOUDS
10. IN GOOG COMPANY

sm city southmall

1. RESERVED
2. RESERVED
3. THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
4. IN GOOD COMPANY
5. GUESS WHO
6. RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
7. KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
8. CAN THIS BE LOVE
9. SIX
10. xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL

sm city bicutan

1. KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2. CAN THIS BE LOVE
3. THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
4. IN GOOD COMPANY

sm cinema tutuban

1. RESERVED
2. RESERVED
3. RESERVED
4. RESERVED

sm supercenter sucat

1. THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
2. CAN THIS BE LOVE
3. KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4. IN GOOD COMPANY

LUZON

sm city pampanga

1. KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2. GUESS WHO
3. CAN THIS BE LOVE
4. xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
5. SAHARA
6. RING OF THE NIBELUNGS

sm city baguio

1. THE INTERPRETER
2. KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
3. THE WEDDING DATE
4. SAHARA

sm city batangas

1. THE PACIFIER
2. CAN THIS BE LOVE
3. KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4. SAHARA

sm city dasmariñas

1. RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
2. CAN THIS BE LOVE
3. KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4. SAHARA

sm city marilao

1. SAHARA
2. GUESS WHO
3. KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4. RING OF THE NIBELUNGS

sm city bacoor

1. SAMARA: RING 2
2. RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
3. KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4. THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
5. xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
6. CAN THIS BE LOVE
7. SIX
8. SAHARA

sm city lucena

1. SAHARA
2. THE PACIFIER
3. CAN THIS BE LOVE
4. KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

sm city cebu

1. THE INTERPRETER
2. RESERVED
3. KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4. GUESS WHO
5. THE WEDDING DATE
6. CURSED
7. CAN THIS BE LOVE
8. ONG BAK: THE THAI WARRIOR

sm city iloilo

1. THE PACIFIER
2. RESERVED
3. CAN THIS BE LOVE
4. SAHARA
5. KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
6. GUESS WHO
7. RESERVED
8. THE WEDDING DATE

sm city davao

1. KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2. SHAOLIN vs EVIL DEAD
3. CAN THIS BE LOVE
4. GUESS WHO
5. THE INTERPRETER
6. FINDING NEVERLAND

sm city cagayan de oro

1. SAHARA
2. CAN THIS BE LOVE
3. THE WEDDING DATE
4. KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

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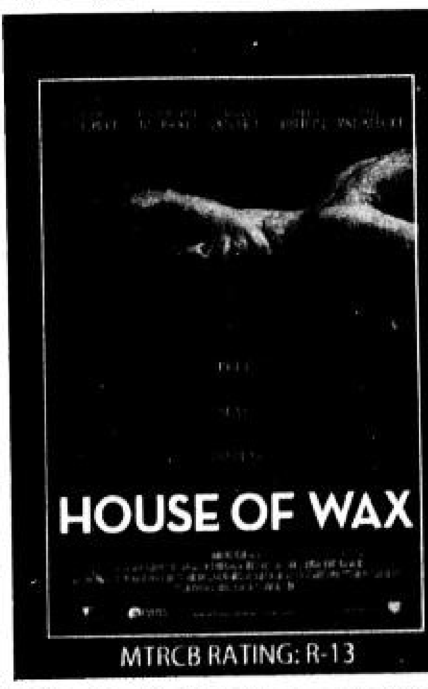

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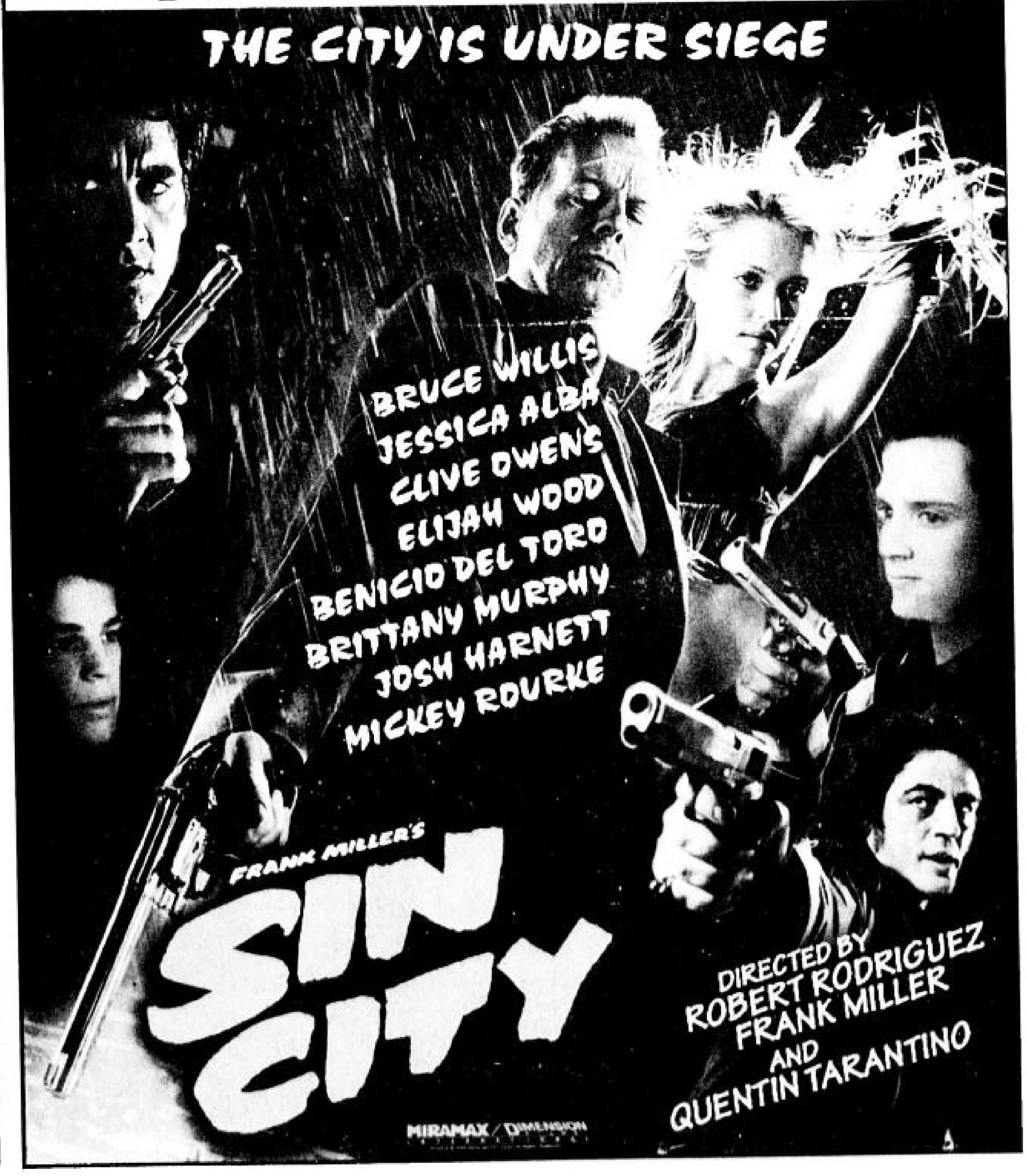

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THE INTERPRETER PG13 11:45,2:15,4:45,7:15,9:45	HEAD IN THE CLOUDS R13 12:15,2:45,5:15,7:45,10:15	KINGDOM OF HEAVEN PG13 1:20,4:20,7:20,10:20

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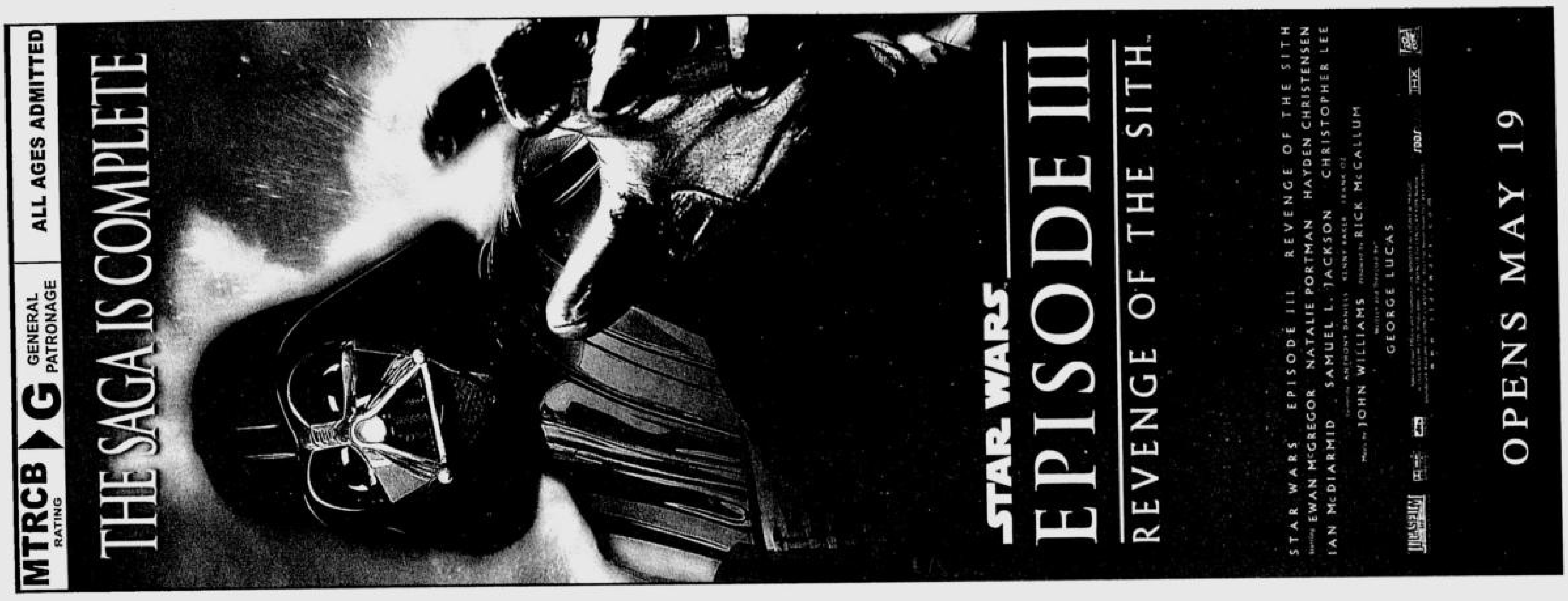
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1	IN GOOD COMPANY 10:50, 1:35, 4:20 7:05, 9:50
2	KINGDOM OF HEAVEN 11:00, 2:00, 5:00 8:00, 11:00 PG-13
3	AMITYVILLE HORROR 12:55, 3:20, 5:45, 8:10, 10:35
4	GUESS WHO? 12:35, 3:10, 5:45 8:20, 10:50 PG-13



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THE SAGA IS COMPLETE

STAR WARS EPISODE III REVENGE OF THE SITH

STAR WARS EPISODE III REVENGE OF THE SITH
EWAN McGREGOR NATALIE PORTMAN HAYDEN CHRISTENSEN
IAN McDIARMID SAMUEL L. JACKSON CHRISTOPHER LEE
ANTHONY DANIELS KENNY BAKER FRANK OZ
JOHN WILLIAMS RICK McCALLUM
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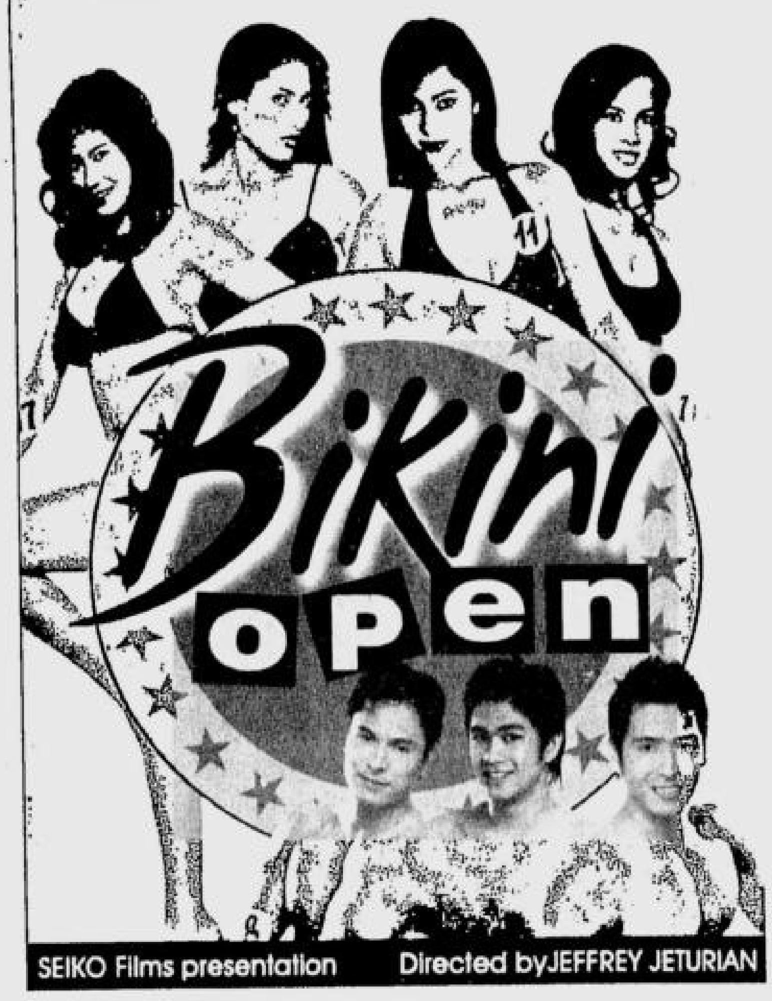
OPENS MAY 19

OPENS MAY 18!

From the team that created box-office and critical-hit BRIDAL SHOWER, comes a fresh and bitingly funny satirical take on Filipino beauty contests.

CHERRY PIE PICACHE · DIANA ZUBIRI · FRANCINE PRIETO · NINA RICCI ALAGAO
RAFAEL ROSELL · ALFRED VARGAS · J.E. SISON · introducing ROXY RAMIREZ · DARLING LAVINA
guests RICKY DAVAO · MICHAEL DE MESA · RODEL VELAYO · TIM YAP · & MARISSA DELGADO



SEIKO Films presentation Directed byJEFFREY JETURIAN

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ORLANDO BLOOM

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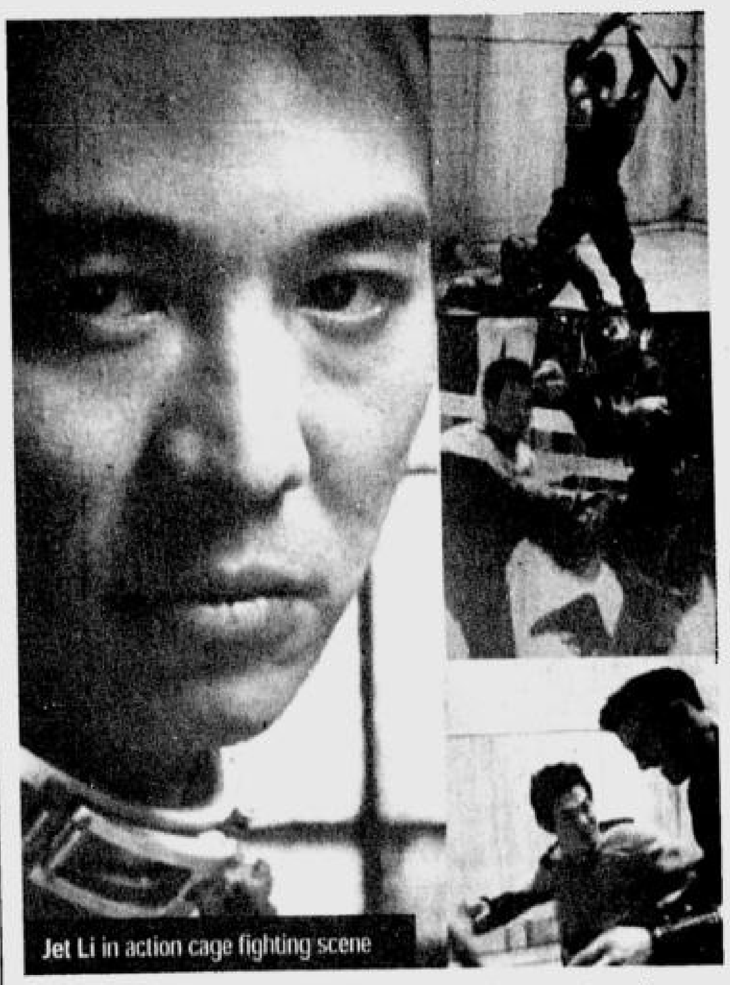
HEAD in the CLOUDS

UNLEASHED

Cage Fighting aka Human Cockfighting



Jet Li in action cage fighting scene

Martial art superstar **JET LI** teams with top action director Louis Leterrier in the **UNLEASHED.**

Jet Li plays Danny, a brutal fighting machine kept since childhood in a dog-like state by gangland boss 'Uncle' Bart (Hoskins), and forced to fight like a brutal animal in underground cage fights.

Wasting no time in setting the action scenes, **UNLEASHED** opens with a no-holds-barred fight scene in a caged ring and - as with the ensuing battles - Jet Li's performance as a martial artist is amply showcased and masterfully choreographed by Hong Kong's legendary **YUEN WOO PING** of Matrix fame.

The film features some of the world's top cage fighters. The savagery of this llegal sport will be seen for the first time on screen.

Cage fighting aka human cockfighting

Cage fighters have been described as the modern day equivalent of Roman gladiators, whose brutal battle for victory is considered the ultimate test of mind and body.

This violent sport is sweeping across the world in illegal underground arenas, drawing thousands of spectators.

Cage fights are bloody messes and the losers often end up permanently crippled. The combatants lock horns in an octagonal cage, surrounded by a 1.5 metre (5ft) high fence, and once battle is under way it is virtually a case of anything goes as they attempt to punch, kick, slap or wrestle their way to victory. There are No rules. No mercy and No surrender.

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AYALA CINEMAS THX

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G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR	2 XXX 2	3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN	4 CAN THIS BE LOVE
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 IN GOOD COMPANY	2 XXX 2	3 THX KINGDOM OF HEAVEN 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 SHATTERED GLASS	5 HEAD IN THE CLOUDS	6 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR	7 GUESS WHO
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 IN GOOD COMPANY	2 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX THE AMITYVILLE HORROR GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX KINGDOM OF HEAVEN GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 THE INTERPRETER GUARANTEED SEATS	4 THE WEDDING DATE GUARANTEED SEATS	5 IN GOOD COMPANY GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX KINGDOM OF HEAVEN	2 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR		
	3 IN GOOD COMPANY	4 GUESS WHO	5 HEAD IN THE CLOUDS	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN	2 GUESS WHO	3 THE INTERPRETER	4 THE CURSED

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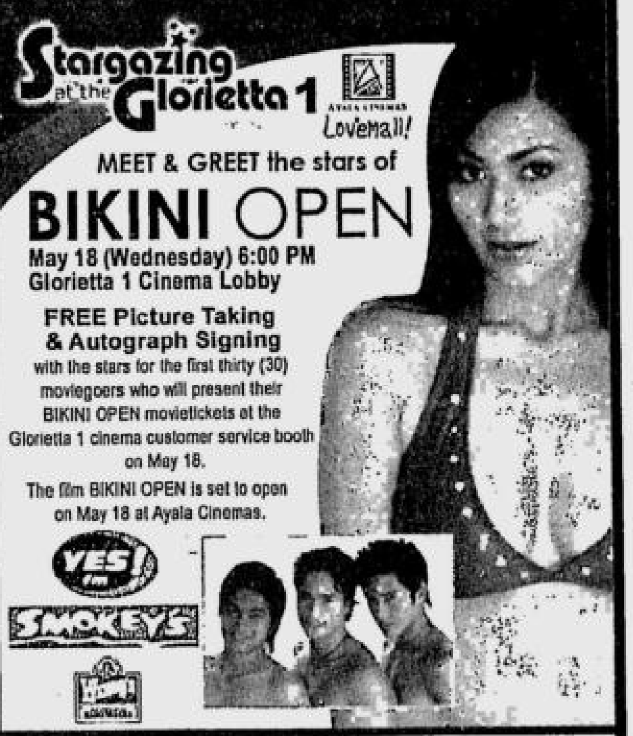
AYALA CINEMAS

STAR WARS
EPISODE III
OPENS MAY 19



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May 18 (Wednesday) 6:00 PM
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FREE Picture Taking & Autograph Signing with the stars for the first thirty (30) moviegoers who will present their BIKINI OPEN movietickets at the Glorietta 1 cinema customer service booth on May 18.

The film BIKINI OPEN is set to open on May 18 at Ayala Cinemas.

Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900
Customer Service text hotline: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm
Greenbelt - 752 4853; from 11am to 12mn

Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324

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⑦ Kingdom Of Heaven

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GALLERIA
632-9115/16

1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN • THX
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

2 AMITYVILLE HORROR
10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

3 THE INTERPRETER
11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00

4 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00

5 HEAD IN THE CLOUDS
10:45 1:35 4:25 7:15 10:00

6 IN GOOD COMPANY
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

7 SIX
1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00

8 THE WEDDING DATE
1:05 3:20 5:35 7:50 10:00

9 GUESS WHO?
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

10 THE PACIFIER
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

ERMITA
536-7809 to 12

1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
10:30 1:20 4:10 7:00 9:50

2 SIX
11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

3 AMITYVILLE HORROR
11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

4 THE WEDDING DATE
10:20 12:15 2:10 4:05 6:00 7:55 10:00

5 XXX 2
11:05 1:15 3:25 5:35 7:45 10:00

6 IN GOOD COMPANY
11:05 1:15 3:25 5:35 7:45 10:00

7 HEAD IN THE CLOUDS
10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

METRO EAST
682-8193 • 682-8199

1 THE WEDDING DATE
11:55 2:10 4:25 6:40 9:00

2 ASTERIX AND OBELIX
12:10 2:20 4:30 6:40 9:00

3 THE INTERPRETER
11:20 1:40 4:00 6:30 9:00

4 GUESS WHO?
11:30 1:50 4:10 6:30 9:00

5 XXX 2
11:00 1:50 4:20 6:40 9:10

6 AMITYVILLE HORROR
11:30 1:50 4:20 6:40 9:10

7 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
10:55 1:55 4:55 7:55 10:30

8 SIX
10:50 12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

NOVALICHES
935-3229/31

1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
11:20 2:20 5:20 8:25

2 XXX 2
12:00 1:55 4:05 6:15 8:30

3 AMITYVILLE HORROR
11:00 1:20 3:40 6:00 8:25

4 GUESS WHO?
12:50 3:20 5:50 8:25

5 RESERVE

6 RESERVE

7 RESERVE

8 RESERVE

PIONEER
687-5378

1 IN GOOD COMPANY
2 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
3 XXX 2
4 AMITYVILLE HORROR

CITISQUARE MALABON
288-2575

1 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
2 XXX 2
3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 THE JACKET

CAINTA
240-4661

1 XXX 2
2 ASTERIX AND OBELIX
3 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
4 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

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EPISODE III
REVENGE OF THE SITH

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1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 THE JACKET
3 THE WEDDING DATE
4 CURSED
5 BOSO

LIPA
(043) 757-3664
(043) 312-5870

1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 THE PACIFIER
3 OK KA PARE KO
4 THE JACKET
5 SAHARA

DASMARIÑAS
(046) 852-2125
(046) 416-4332

1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 CURSED
3 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
4 BOSO
5 XXX 2

ANGELES
(045) 892-2348

1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 THE WEDDING DATE
3 THE JACKET
4 GUESS WHO?

IMUS
(046) 875-3838
(046) 471-8188

1 TAGOS SA LAMAN
2 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
3 SIX
4 XXX 2
5 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
6 LOVE ME IF YOU DARE

STARMILLS
(045) 875-1927
(045) 961-5270

1 XXX 2
2 SAHARA
3 GUESS WHO?
4 ASTERIX AND OBELIX
5 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
6 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

BACOLOD
(034) 441-0453
(034) 441-0459

1 THE WEDDING DATE
2 ALONE IN THE DARK
3 SAHARA
4 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
5 XXX 2
6 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS

ILOILO
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1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 XXX 2
3 PARAISO
4 GUESS WHO?
5 SAHARA
6 THE WEDDING DATE

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Manzano lauded by US movie group

TAKING time out from an anti-piracy summit in Hong Kong, Optical Media Board (OMB) chair and chief executive Edu Manzano expressed gratitude for the recent commendation by the Motion Picture Association-International (MPA).

"I am very grateful that the MPA has acknowledged and appreciated our efforts," Manzano told INQUIRER Entertainment in a phone interview.

The US-based MPA lauded the OMB for the local group's seizure in the last six months of over one million pirated optical discs—"the largest anywhere in the world."

MPA is the international counterpart of the Motion Picture Association of America.

In a letter dated May 4 and addressed to Manzano, Mike Ellis, MPA senior vice president and Asia-Pacific regional director, said the raids, particularly those held in Quiapo in December and April "send a very strong message that the Philippines is committed to the fight against intellectual property theft."

Fantastic

Ellis described the efforts of OMB's 550-strong team as "fantastic."

A corporation organized and registered in the United States, the MPA boasts members all over the world and is concerned with providing audio-visual entertainment for global audiences.

In its web site, the MPA estimates that the US movie industry loses over $3 billion in potential worldwide revenue due to piracy—and this figure excludes Internet piracy losses.

"To combat these staggering losses, the MPAA-MPA, on behalf of its members, directs a comprehensive international anti-piracy program," according to its Web page.

While he was elated by the international honor, Manzano said, he is not about to take things easy: "We've only just begun. We have a lot of hard work ahead of us. But with the help of other government agencies and the inspired leadership of International Property Office (IPO) director general Adrian Cristobal Jr., we should be headed in the right direction."

Manzano is in Hong Kong to form linkages with neighboring Asian countries, because most pirated optical discs in the Philippines come from Malaysia, Indonesia, Hong Kong and China.

"We need to create a network of support," Manzano stressed.

Bayani San Diego Jr.

EDU seeks "network of support."

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Mona Lisa's Smile /A3-2
■ December wedding for Becky Garcia /A3-3
■ 'Imelda' opens in LA /A3-1

Papal funeral, 'Darna' top TV survey

MOST of the country's televiewers tuned in to the coverage of Pope John Paul II's funeral.

In the recently released report of AGB Nielsen Media Research for the month of April, GMA 7's "John Paul II We Love You," ABS-CBN's "Paalam Mula sa Bayang Minahal Mo" and GMA 7's "Panalangin sa Santo Papa" all placed in the top daytime and evening programs.

Coverage of the installation mass of Pope Benedict XVI and "Bagong Santo Papa, ang Pagpili," both by ABS-CBN, were also among the top 50 programs.

Fantaseryes and *koreanovelas* reigned supreme in the evening slots. "Darna" ranked No. 1 with an average rating of 26.5 percent. *Koreanovelas "Full House" and "Stairway to Heaven" got second and third spot. "Darna ang Muling Paglipad, the making of 'Darna'" was number 4.*

In the daytime survey, GMA 7's "Eat Bulaga" still dominated, followed by "Irene" and "Daisy Siete."

The April report also had GMA 7 domi-

PAPAL/ A22

Revillame files counter-affidavit

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE LAWYER of the entertainment columnist who filed a criminal complaint against Willie Revillame is challenging the TV host-comedian to "tell the truth" after "denying everything" in a counter-affidavit filed on Thursday.

"If these things did not happen, then Willie should state the facts," said Bonifacio Alentajan, lawyer of entertainment columnist Ma. Salvacion Asis, who accused Revillame of making inappropriate sexual advances in March 2002.

The Office of the Quezon City Prosecutor has set a May 19 hearing for the acts of lasciviousness case against the comedian.

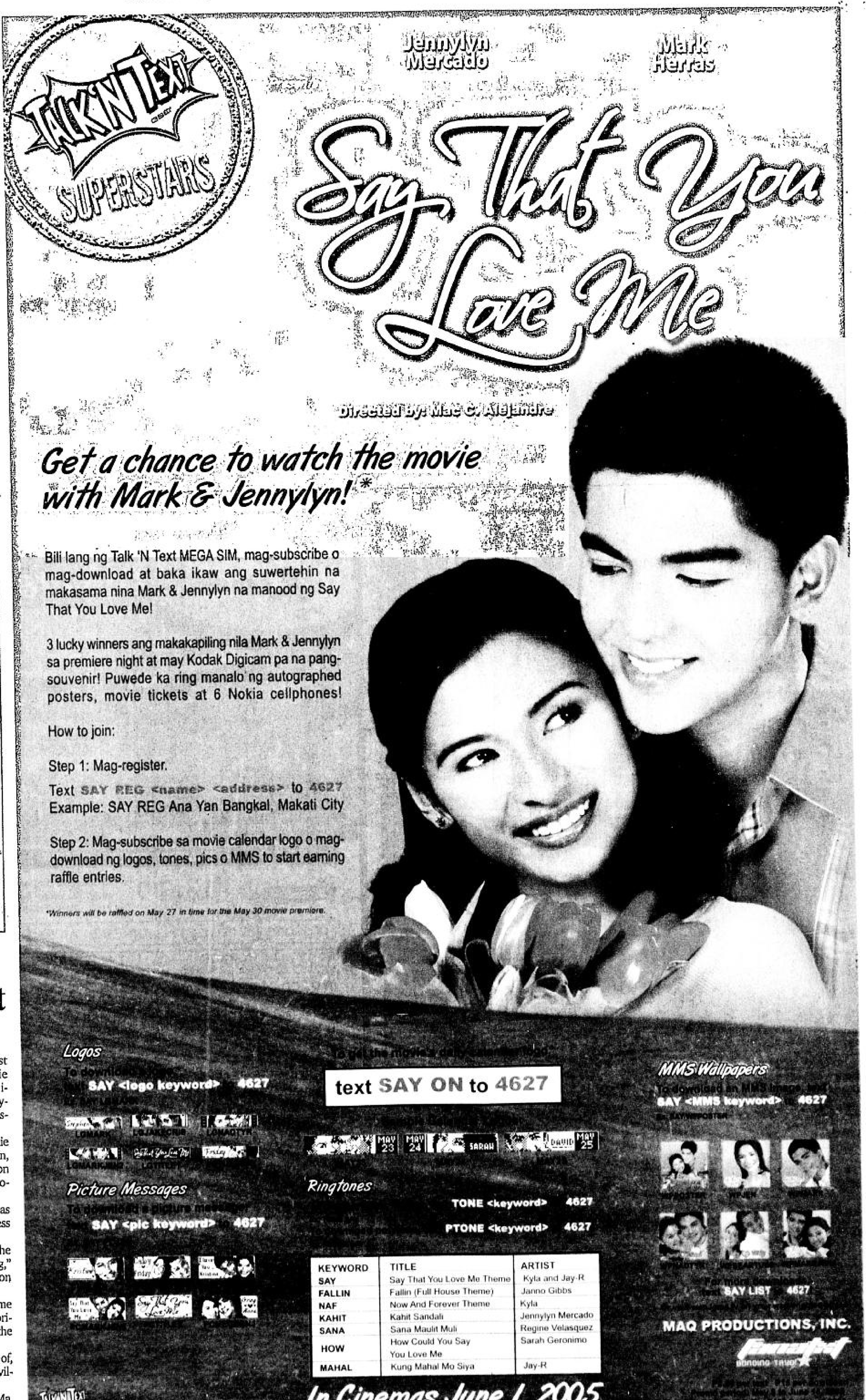
"He didn't say anything substantial [in the counter-affidavit]; he merely denied everything," said Alentajan. "My client has the facts, and on May 19 she will drop a new bombshell."

In her complaint affidavit, Asis said Revillame touched her breasts and forced her to hold his private parts. She said he kissed her forcibly on the lips, ears and cheeks.

"I did none of the acts she is accusing me of, much less with force and violence," said Revillame in his counter-affidavit.

As Asis told it, Revillame invited her and Ma. Lillian Fariñas, People's Journal Tonight columnist, to his home in Capitol Hills, Quezon City, late in the night. On their way back to Padi's Point on

REVILLAME/ A22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MAY 23 MAY 24 SARAH DAVID MAY 25

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KEYWORD	TITLE	ARTIST
SAY	Say That You Love Me Theme	Kyla and Jay-R
FALLIN	Fallin (Full House Theme)	Janno Gibbs
NAF	Now And Forever Theme	Kyla
KAHIT	Kahit Sandali	Jennylyn Mercado
SANA	Sana Maulit Muli	Regine Velasquez
HOW	How Could You Say You Love Me	Sarah Geronimo
MAHAL	Kung Mahal Mo Siya	Jay-R

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On Eddie Garcia's view about arming actors

FEEDBACK

THE STATEMENT by Mr. (Eddie) Garcia (that actors and media men should carry guns, May 12) shows why you do not let actors into politics. Review the policies of other countries and see what they have done over the years, and learn. Keep the good and get rid of the bad. Now enforce the laws you have on the books equally for all Filipinos and the system should work.

Michael Martin, Michael.Martin@vandenberg.af.mil, (805)2603253, USA

Thanks for Paolo interview

I am glad you [interviewed] Paolo Bediones (May 12). I just love the guy and, yes, it's true that his sincerity shows... even with ordinary people. How can I write to him?

Benjie, benjieb@pmrproperty.com, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

(Try: GMA 7, Edsa cor. Timog Avenue, QC)

Another Pinoy sighting

Read your recent story about Pinoys on American TV (Viewfinder, May 12). I want to let you know that Martin Nievera was shown in the series "Casino," singing and then introducing the [next featured artist].

Also, a new TV series, "Queer Eye for the Straight Girl," premiered months ago here in US, with three gay guys and one "lipstick" lesbian as hosts. Her name is Honey—her last name ... sounds very Pinoy.

Hilario Peñaranda, hilariopenaranda@sbcglobal.net. (626)3960149, Pasadena, California

REVILLAME: "I committed no offense."

Revillame files counter-affidavit

From page A2-1

Mindanao Avenue, where Fariñas' van was parked, Revillame allegedly assaulted Asis. To stop her from complaining to Fariñas or the driver, she said, Revillame covered her mouth with his hand.

When Asis and Fariñas transferred to the latter's van, Revillame "forced himself into the van," sat beside Asis and assaulted her again, she said in her complaint.

A struggle between them ensued for 20 minutes, Asis said, before she managed to alight from the van, "[and only] after Ian (Fariñas) begged and pleaded with Revillame."

But the host of the noontime game show "Wowowee" on ABS-CBN argued that, if Asis had indeed been molested, "how was ... she not able to call the attention of the driver seated right in front of her, or Fariñas, who was regularly glancing our way because the three of us were conversing?"

He added: "If I was covering her mouth, and at the same time forcing one of her hands to hold my private parts, then how was it that she did not even use her free hand, or [her] feet to ask for assistance from the two other passengers?"

Revillame insisted that during the 20 minutes it took them to get to Padi's Point from his house, "there was not even a squeak heard from [Asis]."

No clue

The TV host also pointed out that he did not apologize to Asis after the incident. "I had nothing to apologize for because I committed no offense."

Asis said Revillame had begged for her forgiveness days after the incident, saying: "Have pity on me. If only for my daughter, forgive me." Revillame has a daughter, Meryl, with Vicky Soriano, sister of actress Maricel Soriano.

She wanted to forgive him, said Asis, but seeing that he "had not changed," she broke her silence after three years.

Revillame challenged this. "Lo and behold, she suddenly turned vigilante, to supposedly teach me a lesson for imagined immoral acts," he said. "I personally have no clue as to what [Asis'] motivation is. Whatever [it is], it will not compensate for hard facts [that] will absolutely point to my innocence."

In her Pilipino Star Ngayon column, "Baby Talk," on April 2, Asis said she decided to file the complaint after she heard a 19-year-old member of the dance group Go Girls accuse Revillame of the same thing that she earlier experienced in his hands. The dancer reportedly retracted her statement.

Papal ...

From page A2-1

nating the Mega Manila television landscape. The top 12 of 50 evening shows ranked in the ratings were GMA 7 shows, as well as eight out of the top 10 daytime shows.

AGB Nielsen Media Research is the leading television audience measurement (TAM) company operating globally. With more than 42,000 homes participating in its panels across 30 countries, it has more "people meters" installed than any other TAM provider.

For further information on the TAM system, or for details on the group's global operations, visit www.agbnielsen.net.

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One year later, the new house owners, George and Kathy Lutz and their children moved into the house thinking it would be their dream home.

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A PERFECT DATE MOVIE!
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HE'S IN LOVE WITH YOU
AND HE'S YOUR
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'Imelda' opens in LA

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Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—The Imeldific life of former First Lady **Imelda Marcos** marches on in entertainment.

Wednesday evening, before a gala night audience that included actress **Tia Carrere**, "Imelda: A New Musical" opened its six-week run at the David Henry Hwang Theater in LA's Little Tokyo district. The musical is a rare opportunity in American theater to hire a majority of Filipino-American stage talents. Leading the 16-member cast are **Liza Del Mundo** in the title role, **Giovanni Ortega** as **Ferdinand Marcos, Antoine Reynaldo Diel** as **Benigno Aquino** and **Myra Cris Ocenar** as **Corazon Aquino.**

In contrast to her real life character's well-known collection of thousands of pairs of shoes, Liza told me, "I only have about 60 pairs of shoes. *Konti lang po.*" We'll see what the theater critics will say about her performance and the musical itself. *Abangan.* More about the show on www.eastwestplayers.org.

By coincidence, PBS began airing Ramona Diaz's award-winning documentary, "Imelda," on its public television stations across the US.

Emotional affair

It must be something in the thick slice of chocolate cake dessert, the lovely ladies at my table offered as an explanation to the awardees and presenters getting emotional and teary-eyed at the recent anniversary awards and benefit dinner of Sipa (Search to Involve Pilipino Americans).

But the honorees onstage had every reason to be overwhelmed. In the Fil-Am community where awards are a dime a dozen, and award-giving is almost like a cottage industry, a citation from Sipa, a truly relevant and significant community services organization, stands out. It is a prestigious honor, so shedding a tear or two after being so honored is a natural reaction.

And so during dinner ceremonies hosted by **Cher Calvin,** co-anchor of a TV morning news program here, her fellow Fil-Am colleagues, ABC-7's **Denise Dador** and UPN 13/Fox-11 News' **Maria Quiban,** wept as they accepted their awards.

Zen Lopez, former Bayanihan dancer and Glendale's first Fil-Am Arts and Culture Commissioner, was overcome by emotion too as she presented the "Apo" (Venerated Elder) award to **Virginia Flor-Agbayani,** professor emeritus at UP's College of Fine Arts, artist, writer and lecturer. "I wouldn't be who I am today without her," Zen said of her mentor who gave an acceptance speech that was passionate, commanding and tear-free. The awardee, a vision of poise and elegance in a Filipiniana attire that belonged to her *lola,* turns 83 on May 20.

Leave it to Bishop **Oscar Solis,** one of the honorees, to not only remain composed but to kid around as well. "When I was informed that I would receive this award, I was concerned because, in the Philippines, Sipa means kick," joked the first Fil-Am bishop in the US before the crowd at a ballroom-sized hall of the beautiful Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels complex in downtown LA.

The other awardees were **Marissa Castro-Salvati, Lucille Roybal-Allard** and **Jackie Goldberg.** Citations also went to Citibank and the Los Angeles Times Family Fund. Winston Emano, press director of the just concluded Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival which featured works by promising Fil-Am filmmakers (including **Michael Tuviera,** son of "Eat Bulaga" producer **Tony Tuviera**), was among the presenters.

Becca Godinez, already a top-caliber talent but keeps getting better, wowed the crowd with a medley of two Al Green songs. She excitedly told me about her trip back home (she will be in Manila by the time this column comes out) to promote her new CD, "Road to Humble," which is among her best works to date. Becca's husband, **Benito Miranda,** is Sipa president. Benito, executive director **Joel Jacinto** and communications director **Peter Corpus** are among the folks behind Sipa's commendable drive to empower Fil-Am youths and families.

'IMELDA'/ A3-6

LIZA del Mundo says she has only 60 pairs of shoes.

PHOTOS BY JANET SUSAN NEPALES

PROUD father Roger Calvin and daughter Cher

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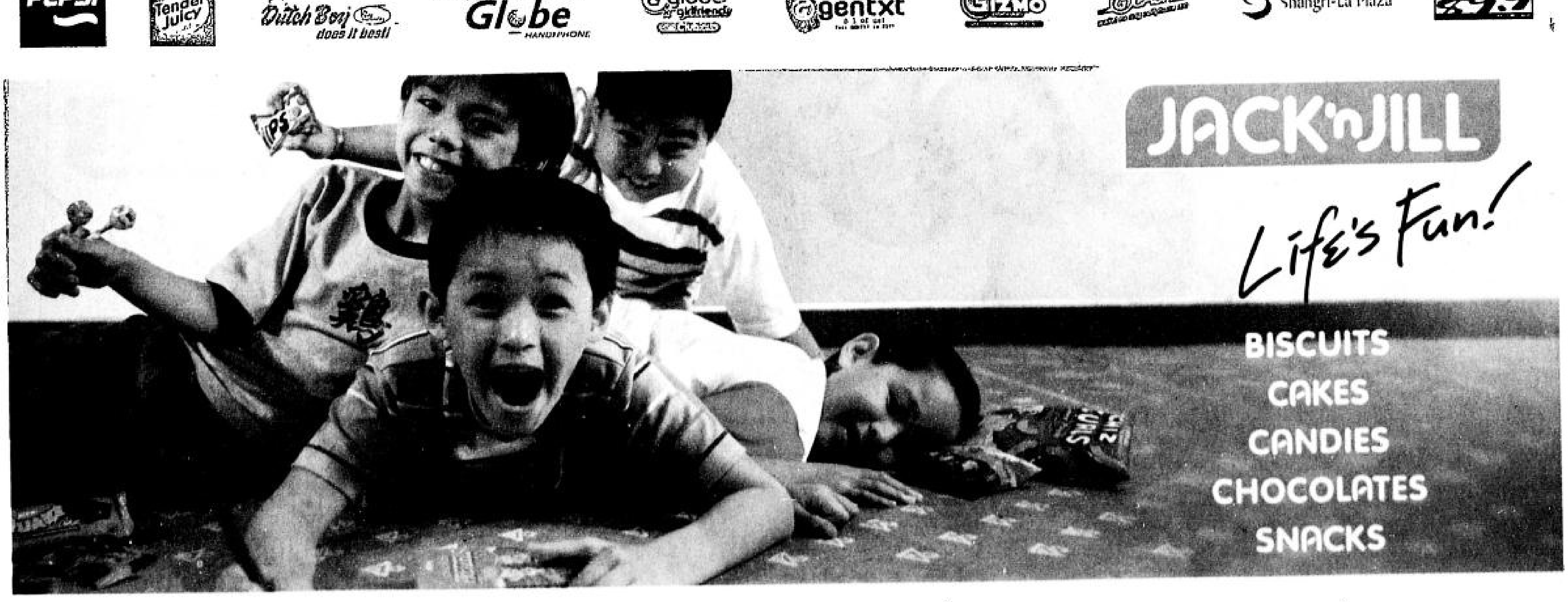

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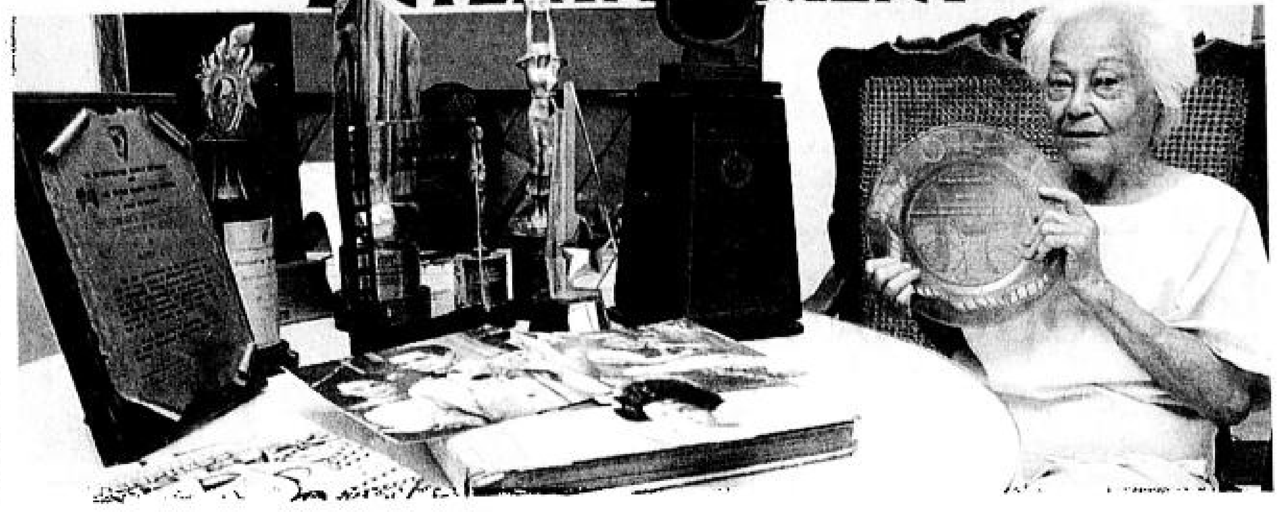
SHOWING off her awards, the results of a dare

PRETTY and tough

Mona Lisa's smile

YESTERDAY

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by Rem Zamora
Additional photos courtesy of Mona Lisa

WHILE shooting the 1976 film "Insiang" in the slums of Tondo, filmmaker Lino Brocka's cast and crew were caught in the middle of a gang war.

"The squatters were throwing urine and shit at us," recalled Mona Lisa, Gloria Yatco-Guinto in real life, who was making a movie comeback at the time.

Unruffled, the screen queen of the 1930s and '40s confronted the bullies and delivered a monologue worthy of a Brocka *ouvre*.

"I asked the two camps to leave us alone," she told INQUIRER Entertainment during a recent visit in her BF Homes Las Piñas residence. "I pleaded with them: 'We're all Filipinos here! Please let us finish our work in peace.' Fortunately, they listened, and we wrapped up the shoot in two weeks."

WITH Leopoldo Salcedo in 'Binatang Maynila'

The toughies never knew what hit them.

Mona Lisa has always been legendary for her maverick spirit; she's feisty, fiery, fearless.

"My contemporaries, Mila del Sol and Norma Blancaflor, were both sweet and soft-spoken," she said. "Not me. I was tough."

Ahead of her time

Mona played the pre-Hispánic warrior "Princess Urduha" in the '40s and did her own stunts, including sword fights with reel- and real-life partner Fernando Poe Sr.

Way ahead of her time, she was also the first actress to don a swimsuit ("Giliw Ko," 1939) and do a "torrid" kissing scene (with Serafin Garcia in "Tinangay ng Apoy," early '40s), and swim in the nude!

"I just showed my back in the movie 'Sunset Over Corregidor,'" Mona pointed out. "It was released internationally. It had an English and Tagalog version. Take One, we said our dialogue in Tagalog; Take Two, in English."

(Before coming home to Manila to launch a film career at age 15, Los Angeles-bred Mona Lisa was Miss Luzon on the Philippine float in the parade that opened San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge in 1937. She could've been the country's first international star, but a planned Hollywood crossover fizzled.)

The Tagalog version of "Sunset" was directed by Carlos Vander Tolosa; the English by Eduardo de Castro, who sired Mona Lisa's first child, Ed.

Originally named Fleur de Lis by fellow Parlatone Hispano actor Don Danon, she was rechristened Mona Lisa by De Castro.

She was still named Fleur de Lis when she co-starred with Ely Ramos, Mila del Sol, and Fernando Poe Sr. in Tolosa's "Giliw Ko"—the first movie produced by LVN, in 1939.

("Giliw Ko" is only one of two pre-war Filipino films in existence today. According to the website kabayancentral.com, the movie's "only extant but deteriorated 16mm print was restored in Australia and blown up to a new 35mm negative." It was screened at the Cultural Center of the Philippines in 1998.)

In "Giliw Ko," she worked with Fernando Poe Sr., who became the father of her second child.

"During the war, we were doing stage shows in Cine State, near Avenue," she said. "We beat our rival's shows because I told Fernando: 'We should get good writers.'"

The winning collaboration ended when she discovered his secret.

"When I found out he was married, I left him," she said matter-of-factly. "I was five months pregnant with Allan and it was the height of the Japanese Occupation."

She is at a loss explaining how she survived both the war and the tempests in her personal life: "We were all going hungry in Manila. The doctor told me: 'You're malnourished.' Of course! There was nothing to eat! We had only *kangkong* for breakfast, lunch and dinner!"

Through the wringer

She has been through the wringer, quite simply.

"I'm the ultimate survivor," she said, laughing. "I'm the oldest living actor in the industry today."

In terms of affairs of the heart, Mona Lisa was also a pioneer.

She was the original liberated woman.

"When we were doing 'Atsay' (in 1978), Nora Aunor asked me: '*Tita*, how can I hold on to a man?" Mona replied: "When you love, just give 60 percent. Leave 40 percent to yourself so you'll have something to fall back on when he's gone. If there is one thing I can be proud of, it's that I was never left by a man; I was always the one who walked away!"

Not only is she undefeated; she is unapologetic about the life she has lived.

Her son Abelarde, currently based in London, plans to publish Mona's memoir and maybe turn it into a movie, if they can find well-meaning financiers.

A page from her life story: At age 27 and at the height of her career, Mona Lisa quit the movies after making what she has since considered her favorite film, the Sampaguita drama, "Ulila ng Bataan"—co-starring child wonder Tessie Agana and the then-newcomer Ramon Revilla Sr.

She meant to concentrate on raising her family with husband Abelardo Guinto, by whom she had four more children (including Abelarde).

By 1976, all her children were grown-up and busy with their own careers (all but two are now abroad). "I was bored at home and my husband was always out with his *barkada* . . ."

Serendipitously, her eldest son Ed was a friend of then young turk Brocka.

"Lino came to my house and showed me the script of 'Insiang,'" she recounted.

"What convinced her to accept the part, along with her other comeback movie that year—Joey Gosiengfiao's "La Paloma"—was a disparaging dare from her husband, now deceased. "He told me I was a has-been. I had to prove him wrong."

It's bittersweet, fashioned by seven decades in show business. She gave Philippine cinema its first torrid kiss and nude swimming scene

That she did, clinching two Best Supporting Actress awards (from the Metro Manila Film Festival and the Famas) that year for "Insiang." The movie went on to receive accolades here and abroad, and was dubbed in English, Japanese, and French. It was the first Filipino movie to be shown at the Cannes Film Festival.

No prima donna

Later in her career, Mona Lisa won other trophies, including at least four Lifetime Achievement honors (from the Star Awards, the Urian, the Cinemanila International Filmfest, and most recently, the Enpress' Lino Brocka Award).

"Lino liked working with me because I was no prima donna," she related. "I was always focused and prepared."

Only the final sequence in "Insiang" had tested their friendship: Mona recalls: "In that scene at the Correctional, he wanted a tear to fall on cue when I finally came face-to-face with my daughter Hilda [Koronel]. I couldn't do it. Thirteen times, he asked me to. The next day, when we tried again, I succeeded!"

WITH Ely Ramos, Mila del Sol, and Fernando Poe Sr.

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December wedding for Becky Garcia

BLACK lace over flesh-colored chiffon

KIMONA top over hankie layers of white

PHOTOS BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN
HAUTE COUTURE BY OSKAR PERALTA
HAIR AND MAKEUP BY PAUL CUEVAS OF FRANK PROVOST

Text, styling and direction by Larry Leviste

SCOOP! Becky Garcia, host of ABC 5's "Sportacular Asia," is all set to wed Dr. George Sarakinis of Greece on Dec. 14 here in the Philippines. This was announced last night at the formal engagement party. It was also a celebration of Becky's birthday.

It will be the third marriage for Becky, who has been widowed twice, and the second for George. A Greek Orthodox wedding will take place in Greece on Sept. 14. Becky will wear a pastel hued Monique Lhuillier bridal gown.

Also known as "Lambada Queen," Becky ignited the ballroom dancing industry in the country. Her now-defunct TV dance shows—"Dance-Upon-A-Time," "Let's Ballroom with Becky" and "Easy Dancing Non-Stop"— led to her opening schools for professional dancing.

"George said it was love at first sight [for him]," Becky told INQUIRER Entertainment. "We were introduced by mutual friends at the Mandarin only three months ago—it was a whirlwind courtship. I remember, telling him that he couldn't kiss me till he shaved his beard. The next day, he showed up clean shaven."

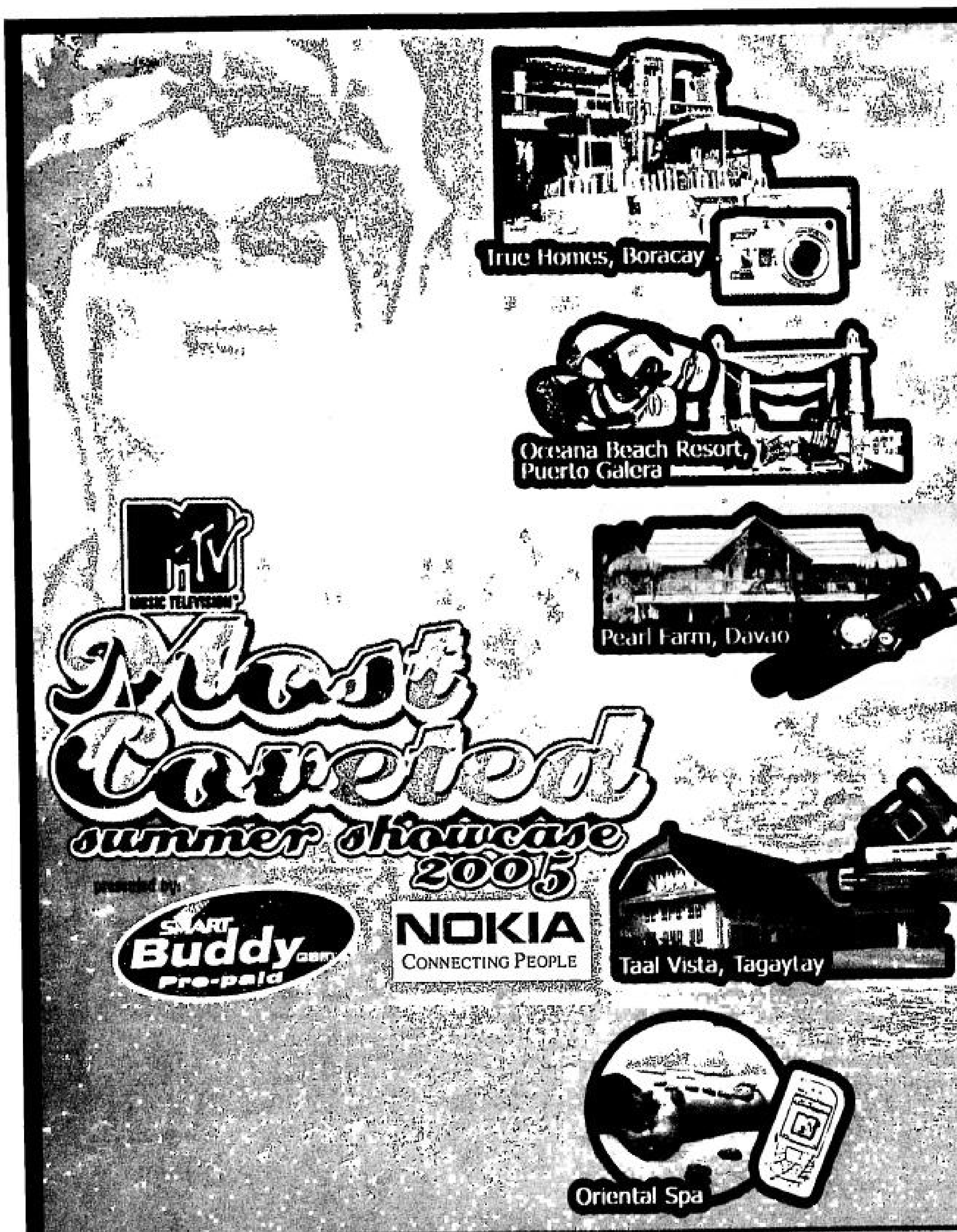
The couple will establish residence in Manila.

Some relationship tips from the bride-to-be: "Don't have an agenda when you meet a man. Don't pre-judge him because only in time will you get to know him. Be up front and be natural. Only by being your true self will you shine through. And don't ever think you should or could change your man."

Becky, chair of the Philippine Olympic Committee for Dance and Culture, says ballroom dancing has yet to become a medal sport at the Olympic Games, although it has been an exhibition sport since 1996. She is founder and chair of the Professional Dance Teachers Association and vice president of the Asian Dance Sport Federation.

"One must have inner honesty and seek deep personal happiness to find a loving relationship," says the stubborn romantic. "It is about partnership and not ownership. Love is the prize for those who will make the commitment."

BLACK silk jersey and bare back



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Why this soundtrack for a computer game?

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor

WE HAVE just seen today's most adventurous new Pinoy rock band and its name is Kamikazee.

At the recent press launch of the "Rok On" CD featuring music inspired by the computer game Ragnarok Online, Kamikazee singer Jay Contreras bantered with the crowd before leading his three band mates in an explosive, awe-inspiring performance that had him jumping from the stage to nearby tables, wiggling his body and roaring out his guts like a desperado torn between deliverance and damnation.

Catching his breath between songs and making fun of his *kanto*-boy presence in a "sosy" club like the Blue Onion in Eastwood City Libis, Contreras portrayed the image of a streetwise kid sizing up every character he meets down the alley. The audience relished the authentic display of role-playing.

Role-playing is also the essence of Ragnarok Online, which has about 50,000 registered members in its gaming community. Ragnarok, a Nordic term which means "end of times," is a battle between good and evil where gamers get to assume their own characters, complete with all sorts of costumes and battle gear.

The game's objective is to "level up!"—constantly improve one's battle skills that range from levels 1 to 99. It is said to start new episodes every six months. It can be so engrossing, especially among students as young as 12 who, aside from getting their kicks from the game's competitive nature, also get to widen their social life, with the interactive features.

Sooo rock 'n' roll

The reason behind recording a soundtrack to a computer game is explained in the "Rok On" CD liner notes:

"Once upon a time, rock 'n' roll gave voice to the revolutionary youth movement of barrier-breaking, community-building and social activism. In 2005, the revolution is revitalized in a new medium. The Internet has expanded our world and at the same time made it much smaller by connecting everyone…

"Online games and their virtual worlds are the playgrounds of this 'interverse.' Ragnarok Online has broken down both physical and socio-economic boundaries. A brand-new economy has emerged and even a new language has been created.

"Ragnarok is so rock 'n' roll. This album is the aural expression of that belief…"

Album producer Level Up! Inc. chose six bands—Moonstar 88, Kjwan, Sun Valley Crew, Typecast, 7 Shots of Wisdom and Kamikazee—and asked them to write songs that would recreate the Ragnarok playing experience.

The first track, "Pag-ibig Ko Sa 'Yo" (Moonstar 88), is about one of the games involving a love triangle, while the rest describe the exhilarating emotions and obsessive bent one can experience while engaged in Ragnarok's battles.

All the songs are good, and represent various dynamic styles (including hip-hop) that make rock 'n' roll still the most popular musical form in contemporary times.

But among the bands we saw at the press launch, it seemed none could "level up" to the power and intensity that Kamikazee unleashed via the song "Chiksilog"—likewise the most interesting among the "Rok On" CD tracks.

In the song, the male speaker recounts a prospective romantic encounter with a fellow Ragnarok gamer that turns out hilariously disastrous because the "chick" turned out to have "balls" (ergo, "Chiksilog").

Now excuse us while we play the game that had one office mate admonishing his adolescent son to please stop blowing his allowance on it.

Marri Nallos

ROK ON
MUSIC INSPIRED BY RAGNAROK ONLINE

SPIN CITY

They're back

And you think boy bands are a thing of the past. The Backstreet Boys are back with a new CD, "Never Gone," to be launched by BMG Records in June.

The group has sold over 73 million albums worldwide since their 1997 debut.

Ivory's new find

Youthful singer Kim Flores is the newest member of the Ivory Records family. Tony Ocampo, president of the record company, praised the budding diva, thus: "For one so young, she's really amazing."

Non-fat choco music

The duo Soul Control became an international dance sensation with the hit "Chocolate."

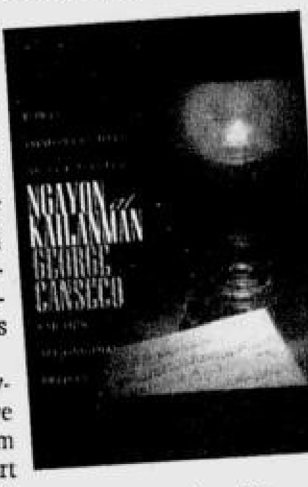
The guys' winning streak continues with the new Universal Records album, "Here We Go," which churned out the chartbuster "Boogaloo."

An unlikely pair, Tom (of Germany) and Leo (of Sierra Leone and New Jersey) formed Soul Control after meeting at the African United Club in Berlin.

Canseco, now and forever

As a tribute to OPM legend George Canseco, Vicor Music has released a special two-disc compilation of his biggest hits titled, "Ngayon at Kailanman." It carries such classics as "Kapantay ay Langit" by Pilita Corrales, "Ngayon at Kailanman" by Basil Valdez, and movie themes as sung by Sharon Cuneta, Raymond Lauchengo, and Rey Valera.

A videoke version is available.



A different songbird

Anton Diva is out to prove that she's not just a "second-rate, trying hard copycat" of Asia's Songbird Regine Velasquez.

After making waves in the comedy bar circuit, Anton was given by Vicor Music the chance to fulfill a long-cherished dream.

Anton's new seven-track, self-titled CD lite includes such OPM hits as "Boy" and "Ayoko na Sana."

ANTON Diva

Seriously now

Fresh alternative band Shamrock hits the mainstream with a new album titled "Are You Serious?" released by Universal Records.

The carrier single is "Ms. Serious."

Indie voice

Another independent band going mainstream is the pop-rock trio Paramita, which signed up with Vicor Music recently. "Paramita" is a Tibetan Buddhist mantra for "perfection."

SOUL Control

Marri's music

Promising singer Marri Nallos was recently launched by Viva Records. Her CD, "Destiny," is produced by Nelia Lim. Among the songs in the collection are "You Are My Destiny" (a duet with actor Juan Rodrigo) and "Gaano" (composed by the late great George Canseco).

BACKSTREET Boys

‘L
Mark M

THREE years ago, new writer-director **Mark Meily** surprised local movie buffs when his first film, "Crying Ladies," got the top grade of "A" from the Cinema Evaluation Board of the Film Development Council of the Philippines.

Only a few Filipino movies manage to get an "A," which entitles them to 100-percent rebate on amusement taxes. So, Meily's achievement, coming as it did so early in his career, served notice to the film industry that he was a new talent worth watching.

Citation

THE QUESTION cynically asked then was, did "beginner's luck" play a big part in Meily's prized CEB citation? And, would he be able to win similar honors in succeeding years?

Well, Meily's new film, "La Visa Loca," is about to open in Metro Manila, and it is expected to be another outstanding production. For proof positive, the production has just won another "A" from the Cinema Evaluation Board, which is now being headed by acting chair **Jackie Atienza.**

Meily's second "A" has effectively affirmed his exceptional talent as a filmmaker. Even better, it has made Meily literally an "A-list" writer-director on the local movie scene, marking him as *the* young filmmaker *extraordinaire* in the Philippines.

Instructively, Meily has won plaudits without losing his strong connection with his audience. He has chosen not to dazzle viewers with far-out "experimental" flourishes in terms of style and technique.

Storytelling

RATHER, while remaining an "alternative" filmmaker, his clear cinematic storytelling keeps his audience grounded and connected, so that it can better focus on issues and themes that he seeks to dramatize and vivify.

"Crying Ladies" suggested that Meily was interested in going beyond comedy, onward to the level of satire. That early indication has come to full fruition in "La Visa Loca," which more dynamically and honestly weighs in on a wider range of Filipino character traits, desires, dreams and foibles.

Its protagonist, played by **Robin Padilla**, is a sort of Pinoy Everyman who, like millions of other cash-strapped Filipinos, dreams of working and living abroad. He's so bent on pursuing his dream of a better life that he's willing to do literally *anything* to

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a Visa Loca' affirms eily's filmmaking talent

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

> He has won plaudits without losing connection with his audience, not dazzling them with far-out experimental style and technique

MARK Meily at work

achieve it.

Commitment

The EXTENT of his psychic commitment is so total that it would strike some foreigners as bordering on lunacy, but that's' part of the caustic satirical sizzle that gives Meily's film its bite and, hopefully, its cathartic edginess.

The film plays it light and breezy for the most part, but we trust that the perceptive viewer senses that there's a lot going on under the production's seemingly slap-happy tone.

We trust that the top grade of "A" that "La Visa Loca" has received from the CEB will motivate you to catch the film once it opens in town, before the end of the month. The satirical points it so forcefully raises about us clearly deserve our similarly enthusiastic attention and support!

Book on Nora Aunor

FANS of **Nora Aunor** are excited about the publication of "Si Nora Aunor sa mga Noranian (Mga Paggunita at Pagtatapat)," edited by Nestor de Guzman for the Federation of Nora Aunor Followers, the Grand Alliance for Nora Aunor, Philippines, and the International Circle of Online Noranians, and Milflores Publishing, Inc.

The book will be launched today, 4 p.m., at Gerry's Grill, Jupiter Street., Makati City. Call Nestor at 0922-8089494.

'Marine Machines'

NATIONAL Geographic Channel's new show, "Marine Machines," reveals how people and technology are working to explore, understand and protect our vast oceans. On May 19 at 11 p.m., "Marine Machines: Hollywood" introduces viewers to moviemakers who meet the challenge of underwater action with custom-made cameras, sunken sets, and mechanized monsters. We meet the innovators behind classic films from "Jaws" to "Saving Private Ryan" tour an animatronic aquarium, and learn how "digital water" may be the wave of the future.

'Believe'

ALVIN Barcelona used to be the front act for **Freddie Aguilar** at Ka Freddie's in Tagaytay, and waxed an album for a major label—until he fell grievously ill and had to put his career on hold. After a miraculous cure, however, he's gotten a new lease on life.

To express his gratitude, Alvin will be performing in a concert, "Believe," today, 3 p.m. at the Party Central Concert Lounge on Mother Ignacia Avenue (across ABS-CBN). Call 722-9562.

Movies on TV

ON Cinemax, today at 7:20 p.m., "Money Talks." Tomorrow at 8 a.m., "The Cowboy Way." 7 p.m., "The Sum of All Fears." 9 p.m., "The Life of David Gale." May 17 at 5:45 p.m., "Warning: Parental Advisory." May 18 at 9 p.m., "S1mOne."

HOSTS Gurfinkel, Keeley and Guingona

'Citizen Pinoy' on TFC

ABS-CBN Global's The Filipino Channel (TFC) has launched "Citizen Pinoy."

Taglined "Your passport to immigration information," the weekly show started airing yesterday (on ANC in Manila), with Regine Velasquez talking about her famous brush with United States immigration a few years ago.

Daly City Vice Mayor Mike Guingona and Odette Alcazaren-Keeley, executive producer and head writer of ABS-CBN International's English weekly newscast, "Balitang America," are the hosts. Providing legal expertise is lawyer Michael J. Gurfinkel, one of the best-known immigration lawyers in the US, who is also dubbed "attorney to the stars."

Guingona is a Filipino-American born in San Francisco and raised in Daly City. He was the first Fil-Am elected to the city council and has served as mayor in 1995, 1997 and 2001. During his first term, Guingona was 33—the city's youngest mayor ever. He is a lawyer, specializing in criminal defense.

With "Citizen Pinoy," Guingona said, he'd like "to be the voice for those who have no voice."

Keeley is also head writer of the show. She notes that the program is timely and relevant, since "immigration is a hot button issue for Filipinos around the world."

Gurfinkel, whose weekly column "Immigration Corner" is published in numerous community newspapers in the US, sees his new endeavor as another way to fulfill his mission of "bringing families together."

He is known for many high-profile immigration cases he has won, including those of Regine Velasquez, actress Gina Alajar, and actor Christopher de Leon.

Raffy Lopez, senior vice-president of ABS-CBN Global, Ltd and managing director of North America Operations, is confident about the new production. He explained: "The market has a need for content that is relevant to the lives of Filipinos in and leaving for the US."

Questions can be sent by email: questions@citizenpinoy.com. Viewers in the US can send questions and/or reactions via text by typing CP , <your name,> < your city,> <question> and sending to 23661. Manila viewers can use the same format and send to 2331 (for Globe and Sun subscribers) and 231 for Smart subscribers.

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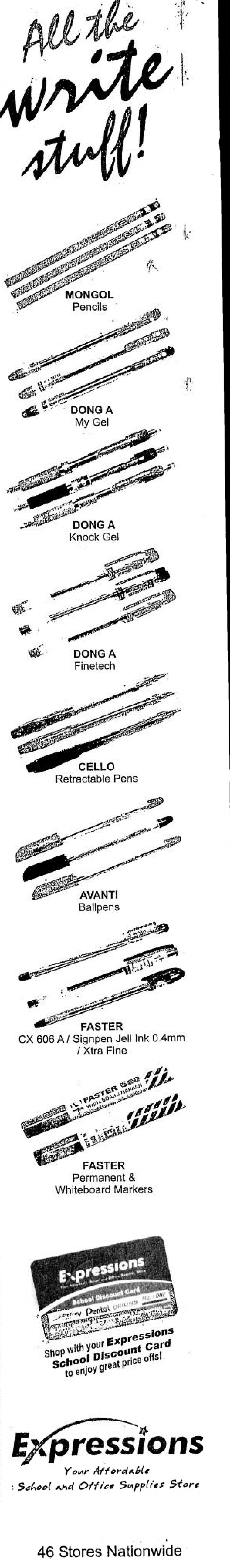
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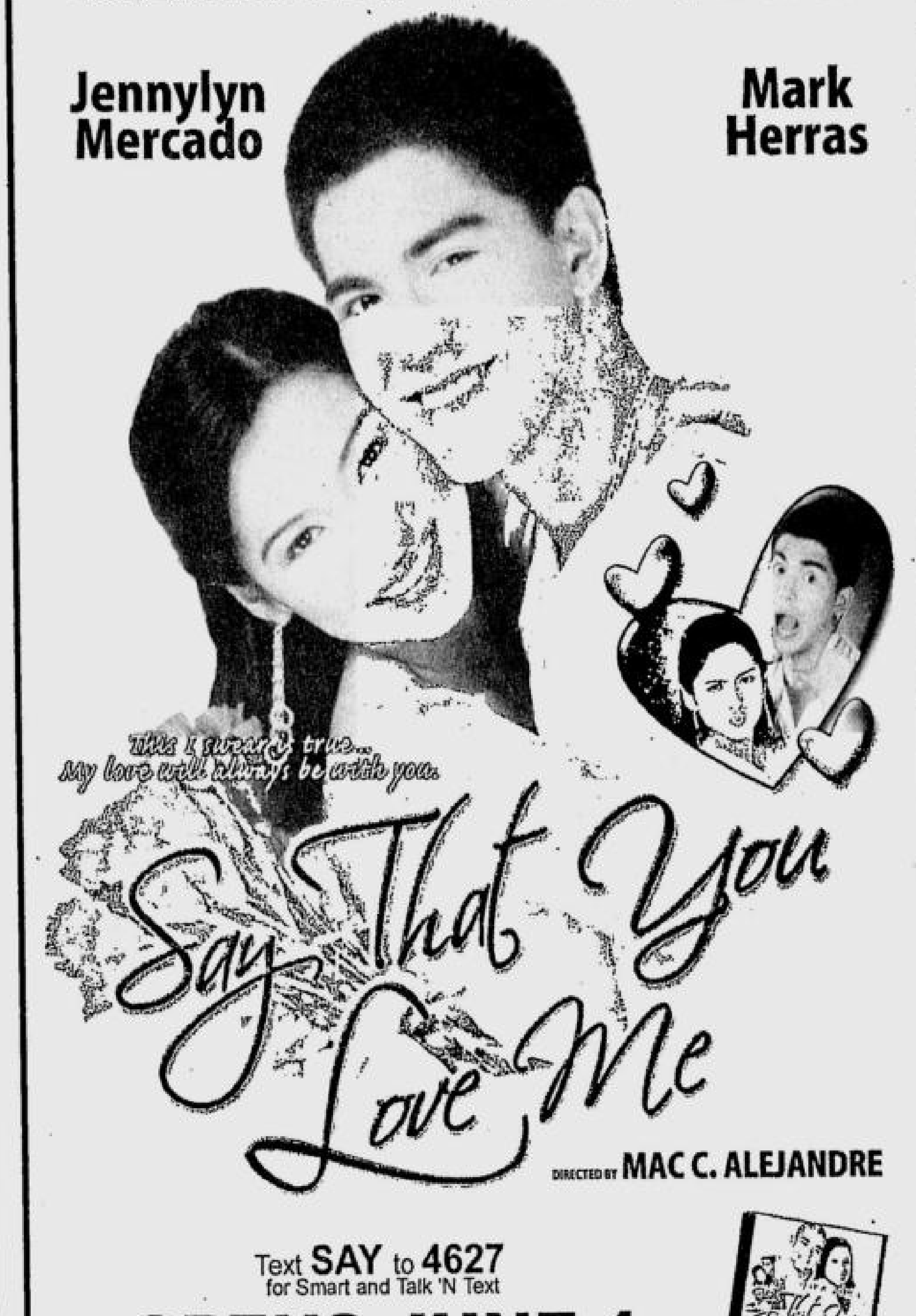
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DESSA with fiancé Inouye

'Imelda' opens...

From page A3-1

LA-based **Antoinette Taus**, whom Becca jokingly introduced to me as her "*ampon*" (adopted), sang. Antoinette said she was currently working on her debut American CD. Filipino-Chinese-American **Harlemm Lee**, the winner of NBC's reality show, "Fame," the Filipino Strings Ensemble led by **Nonoy Alsaybar** and the Sipa Youth also performed.

Earlier during the cocktails reception, singer **Dessa** introduced me to her fiancé, **Jay Inouye**. They have a two-month-old baby, **Jay Matthew**, whom Dessa gushed over.

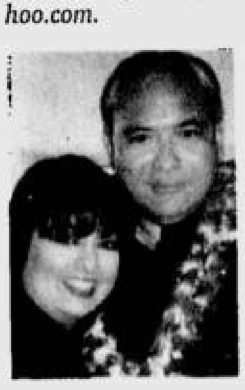
Cher came with her dad, barong-clad former actor **Roger Calvin**, who looked proud of his daughter all evening. Cher confessed that she missed Las Vegas, where she also co-anchored a morning news show, but said she was glad to be in a bigger city like LA. She and fellow anchor-reporters **Janet Choi** and **Leila Feinstein** have wrapped up a KTLA/WB news special highlighting LA's Asian communities that airs on the evening of May 20.

On my way out, **David Maquiling**, Fil-Am director of the acclaimed "Too Much Sleep," said he was hoping to begin his next film, "Another Deep Breath," late this year. He confirmed that **Cesar Montano** was still on board to play a college professor whose extramarital affair ignites a drama on race issues.

David revealed that he and his wife would soon make the big move from the East Coast to LA. Does the move mean that the setting of "Another Deep Breath" has also been moved to the West Coast? Yes, David confirmed with a boyish smile.

He and his companions, producer **Ray Cuerdo** and associate producer **Abe Pagtama** (who is also cast in the film) were off to Las Vegas the following day. The three gents quipped that they were hoping to lure folks to gamble and invest in the film, instead of at Vegas' gambling tables. We all laughed, but I knew they were only half-joking.

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales@yahoo.com.


BECCA Godinez and husband Benito Miranda

KEVYN Lettau

Lettau, Pardini, Pizzulo

TAKE FIVE

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor

KEVYN Lettau, Lou Pardini and Joe Pizzulo are not the high-profile celebrities that pop music fans would quickly recognize on first mention. But their competence and reputation as gifted artists have gained them respect and admiration in international music circles.

All three spent years honing their craft and were given their due breaks. Lettau and Pizzulo were lead singers of Sergio Mendes before they struck out on their own. Pardini was part of a songwriting team that was responsible for one of Smokey Robinson's Top 10 hits.

Over lunch in scenic Tagaytay a few days before their concert yesterday at the Araneta Coliseum, Lettau, Pardini and Pizzulo answered questions from Inquirer Entertainment.

What was your most profound experience as a singer?

LETTAU: Four years ago, I was in Leipzig, Germany doing a concert with Al Jarreau. While singing "Message in a Bottle" I suddenly identified with the history and pain of the East German people, that feeling of being trapped before the Wall came down. It's difficult to articulate, but the sense of kinship that the song communicated at that time was so strong. I'm half-German, but at that moment I felt real empathy with the audience. I feel the power of music when there is interaction and I'm able to feel the human spirit, the human plight.

Tell us how Smokey Robinson recorded "Just To See Her."

PARDINI: It was originally a slow song, real soulful. We were asked to write it for the Isley Brothers. The producers loved it, but for some reason the Isley Brothers never got to record it. And then I was told that Whitney Houston was looking for a song, so we tried arranging "Just To See Her" a bit faster and changed the title to "Just To See Him." Again it didn't happen, until Smokey Robinson heard the demo, loved it so much and finally recorded it. That song opened doors for me."

How did you join Sergio Mendes?

PIZZULO: He was looking for someone to interpret "Never Gonna Let You Go" and I auditioned. He was there in the studio and I was so nervous. I was in the middle of the song and he stopped me. I thought I blew it, you know, when you get stopped like that the next thing you hear is "Thank you very much, we'll call you." But then he said, "Listen, you're perfect for that song. Go ahead and finish it while I have lunch." Since then I've sung in about 100 albums in collaboration with other artists, done studio work, but I still work with Mendes every now and then."

What' good and bad about today's music?

LETTAU: There's not a whole lot to feel good about. I mean, technological advancement has not really contributed in the sense that the quality of musicianship is compromised. In some instances, it's just machines. And just beautiful abs and younger asses.

PIZZULO: The good side is the stuff my own son is writing. I also listen to Coldplay and Radiohead. The bad side is Britney Spears ... and the "oversinging" that has led to an epidemic in the style of Mariah Carey. Ninety-nine percent of rap music is bad. I think we're bound to have a generation that's missing a lot because their perception of creativity relies on technical proficiency."

LETTAU: You hit it right on the head.

'C Majors' at CCP

SHOW TIME

IMMORTAL Filipino ballads and well-loved songs from some of the country's top musical geniuses will be showcased in "C Majors," a tribute concert at the Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo of the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) on May 25, 8 p.m.

"C Majors" features the compositions of National Artists for Music Levi Celerio and Ernani Cuenco, and multi-awarded composers George Canseco, Willy Cruz, Jose Mari Chan and Ryan Cayabyab—to be sung by Pilita Corrales, Kuh Ledesma, Basil Valdez, Janet Basco, Dulce, Rachelle Gerodias and Erik Santos.

The concert is part of the celebration of National Heritage Month this May, under the auspices of the Filipino Heritage Festival Inc. (FHFI) and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), supported by the Department of Tourism (DOT), CCP, San Miguel Foundation for the Performing Arts and San Miguel Corporation.

Tickets—at P1,500, P1,00, P500 and P100—are available at National Bookstore, Robinsons Department Stores, Tower Records (Makati and Alabang), Music Museum, Greenbelt 1 (ticket booth, cinema lobby), Glorietta 1 (ticket booth, cinema lobby) and through Ticketworld at www.ticketworld.com.ph. Call 891-9999.

Tonight

Kevyn Lettau at **Fuzion Smoothie Caféat The Podium**

"StarStruck Superstar" concert series featuring **Mark Herras** at **Enchanted Kingdom**, 7 p.m.

Tomorrow

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"Para Sa 'Yo Willy" fund-raising show for Willy Cruz at **Merk's**.

Freestyle at **Tavern on the Square**, Greenbelt 3

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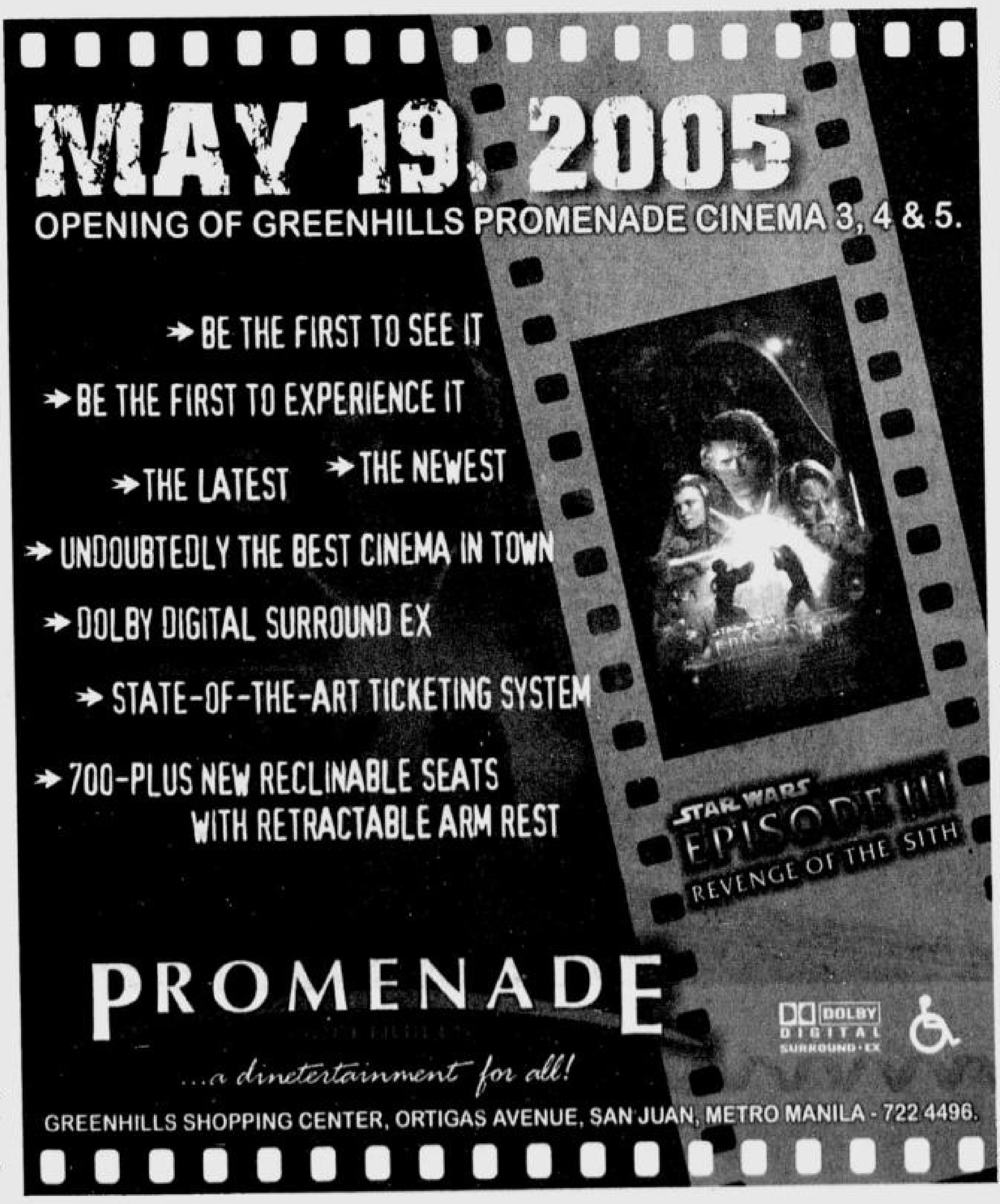

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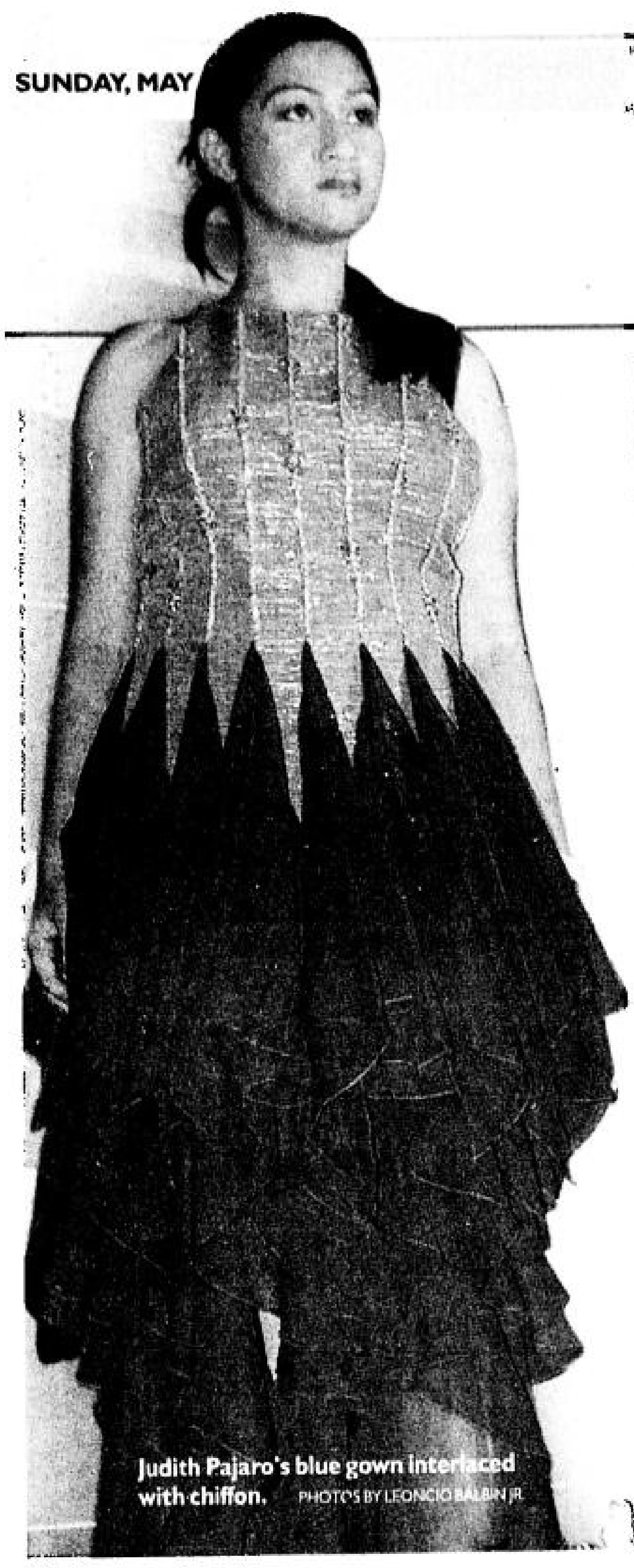


Judith Pajaro's blue gown interlaced with chiffon. PHOTOS BY LEONCIO BALBIN JR.

A YELLOW frilled tube gown created by Sherwynn Favis and Pocholo Padernal

BOARDMEMBER Ronald Singson, son of Gov. Chavit Singson, displays the abel Iloco Barong Tagalog made by Flores.

ILOCOS Sur Teresita Cordero models the fuschia terno-inspired gown designed by Enrique Flores and made of abel Iloco and chiffon.

PERFECT for JS prom. Another creation of Favis and Padernal

THE RED bubble skirt also designed by Flores.

ABEL ILOKO

From soldier's blanket to *haute couture*

By Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

VIGAN CITY—Abel Iloco used to be so ubiquitous that they were known more as the "soldier's blanket."

Remember those inexpensive blankets you gave for weddings where you can have the names embroidered prominently? Those, too, were abel Iloco. They were natural, hardy and attractive like the Ilocanas that wove them.

But as things go, the abel Iloco was forgotten. Hardly no one grows cotton in Ilocos anymore. The only weavers left were in their 60s and no one bothered to pick up the skill again.

Vigan, the center of the industry, used to have a wooden hand loom or *tilar* in all the houses. Now only about 100 households are engaged in abel weaving, particularly in the village of Camangaan. The yarn, which used to be grown in the province, is now imported in Taiwan.

Thanks to modern dyeing techniques, abel Iloco has transformed itself into a local weave almost at par with the very expensive and fragile piña.

Now abel Iloco is haute couture, thanks to the Fashion Design Council of the Philippines which had been promoting indigenous fibers and designs for the global market.

Although FDCP had been using abel Iloco in their fashion shows in Manila, Hong Kong and Hawaii, residents in Ilocos Sur still regard the abel Iloco as the cheap and ubiquitous piece of clothing, said provincial administrator Vicky Cu.

Cu organized the Abel Iloco Fashion Show as the highlight of the Viva Vigan celebrations. Plaza Burgos was transformed into a fashion gallery with two ramps constructed on both wings to form a "V." The stage was boarded up with a black and gold abel Iloco.

Although the crowd included Ambassadors Umberto Colesanti of Italy and Christiaan Tanghe, Rustan's Zenaida Tantoco and Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, the audience was mostly Vigan's hoi polloi.

"We wanted them to be proud again of the abel Iloco," said Cu.

"With this fashion show, we pay tribute to the world-famous abel Iloco, our trademark as Ilocanos," said Singson. "We hope the rest of the world will stop and take notice."

Featured designers were Pocholo Padernal, Sherwynn Favis and Cu of Vigan as well as FDCP's Enrique Flores and Judith Pajaro. Models all came from Vigan.

The children and teen portion, mostly done by Padernal and Favis, reminded us as to why abel Iloco was created in the first place. They were so cool because the breeze passes through. Mostly in pastel, they are perfect for beach wear.

ILOCOS Sur Boardmember Chuchi Purisima in a lime yellow terno created by Enrique Flores

Their prom dresses wowed the female high schools students from where I sat, as some took shots with their cell phones.

The Ilocano designers used the shimmering cloth mostly sold in Vigan stores while Flores and Pajaro tried to do away with the glitters and used mostly textile combinations.

Flores erased the image of the abel Iloco as stiff, blending them with organza and taffeta to create ballgowns and ternos in mostly bright colors.

Chuchi Purisima walked (slowly) on the ramp in fuschia terno draped with chiffon while fellow Ilocos Sur Board Member Teresita Cordero wore a lime yellow terno-inspired gown, both from Flores.

There were two other board members who acted as models for Flores' creations. Ronald Singson and his uncle Jeremias modeled abel Iloco *barongs* which could rival those made in piña.

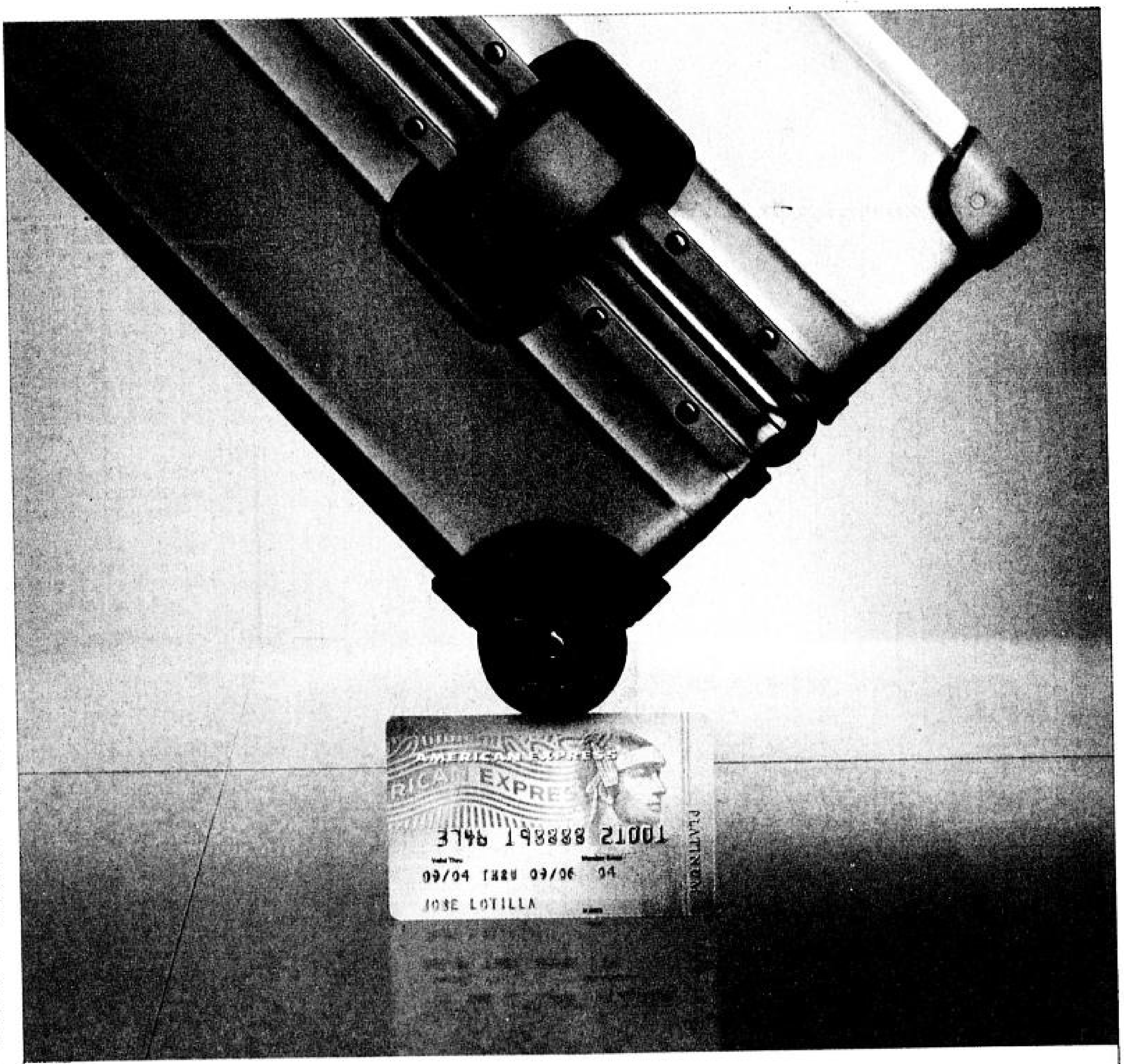
"A lot of experimentation had been done to develop the fabric and make them comparable with must costlier imported fabrics," said Flores.

A red bubbles skirt, for example, had to be electric-pleated and 20 yards of abel had to be used.

The showender, Pajaro's white wedding gown embroidered in silver, so enraptured one *balikbayan* that she even asked me if she could buy it from the designer for her daughter's wedding in California.

"The abel Iloco is really being coveted by Ilocanos abroad. But we are dreaming of a time when European designers will also stop and take notice," said Cu.

If that would happen, then the cloth that was once good only for soldiers would have come a long way.



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Lowly tilapia gets complete makeover; demand up

By Charles E. Buban

TILAPIA (also called St. Peter's Fish) is a hardy, prolific, fast-growing warm water fish native to Africa and Israel, where it has been farmed for about 2,500 years.

It has been dubbed "the aquatic chicken," because it can be grown in a variety of situations from backyards to high-tech aquatic farms—which is why its raising and its allied industries have been thriving in regions like Asia, Africa and Latin America.

"In fact, *tilapia* is second only to salmon as a popular farm-raised fish worldwide," says Rachel Bisuña, operations managing partner of Fishda, a leading supplier of vacuum packed and blast frozen tilapia meat products in the country.

She says the industry owes its growth to one Filipino: Dr. Rafael Guerrero III, executive director of the Philippine Council for Aquatic and Marine Research and Development-Department of Science and Technology, who pioneered in the early '70s the commercialization of the tilapia sex reversal technology (a process by which genetic female tilapia fry are converted into functional males through hormone manipulation).

"Today, as a result of his work, a new wave of fish farmers worldwide are raising tilapia, whose meat products are fast competing in the fresh or frozen-fillet market," says Bisuña.

Fishda

Fishda was founded by Rachel's father, Paul, who, with the assistance of his friend Guerrero, developed his own technique in raising tilapia seven years ago.

Today, the company processes two tons of the fish per day, which it raises in farms located in Laguna, Batangas, Camarines Sur and Sorsogon.

"Guerrero's studies have shown my father that the male tilapia grows faster and bigger than the female tilapia, which should therefore be the natural preference of tilapia growers," says Ria Bisuña, Fishda's operations managing partner.

Guerrero had shown that tilapia fry could be converted to all-male populations when fed a synthetic male hormone for a certain period during the "sexless" stage.

"Moreover, he proved that the technique could work on a commercial scale," says the older of the Bisuña sisters.

Imported from Thailand

Tilapia was first introduced in the Philippines in 1950s when Dr. Deogracias Villadolid of the Bureau of Fisheries (now known as Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources) brought in Mozambique tilapia from Thailand.

Known for its cheap price and strong earthy taste, tilapia soon became popular among impoverished Filipino households.

"Nowadays, thanks to technology, tilapia taste and texture has improved significantly and we believe its about time the tilapia to fully escape its cheap fish label and become a major export product of this country," says Ria Bisuña.

Worldwide tilapia production hit 1.4 million metric tons in 2002 and currently ranks third in the world among the species of farmed fish produced, according to the United States Agricultural Research Service.

The same agency predicted that tilapia will become the most important aquaculture crop this century.

TILAPIA fillet, anyone?

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Beauty and fitness emerge as growth industries in RP

BEAUTY and fitness has emerged as a growth industry in the Philippines and the rest of the world.

This development surfaced from export trends indicating a whopping 20-percent growth rate for beauty and fitness products annually.

The 20-percent growth forecast, issued by the Bureau of Export Trade Promotions, was based on the consistent rise in the country's export of such products, which registered some $2 million sales for herbal personal care and cosmeceuticals alone.

Even in the Philippines, the market for these products are becoming more and more lucrative, with 86 percent of the 80 million population comprising people below the age of 44, including an ever increasing number of women with growing purchasing power and an emerging sector of "metrosexuals" who spend more on acquiring good health and good looks.

All these are made evident by the proliferation of gyms, health clubs and spas, beauty salons, food supplements, cosmetic products and services, toiletries and many other related enterprises, not only in the Philippines, but also abroad, according to Lynn Romero, president of Worldexco, which is staging a beauty and fitness expo for this sunrise industry.

Expo

"The expo, dubbed Beauty & Fitness World 2005, will run from May 26 to 28 at the World Trade Center Metro Manila to showcase the latest trends, products, services, technologies and all the business opportunities that abound in this multi-faceted field of enterprise," Romero said.

Details can be obtained from Worldexco (tel. 8918638 or 8347505, fax 8340608, or email mktg@worldexco.com).

Supporting the Beauty & Fitness World 2005 expo are Global Destiny Cable, Beauty Cosmedica, H4ufme, Health & Lifestyle, Aitech, Chase Technologies, Designer Gardens by Pido, CAC Professional Lights & Sounds, Binondo Media Publications, The Radio Partners Inc., 92.3 Joey and 105.1 Crossover.

Expected to visit the expo are the industry's multitude of prospective buyers and clients, including industry professionals, agents and distributors, retailers, business end-users, and consumers, among many others.

"They will also have the opportunity to attend free lectures and live product demos, and experience the latest trends and technologies in health care and beauty treatments from renowned local and international personalities," Romero added.

Aside from Philippine-based firms, the exhibitors include cosmetic companies from Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and corporate players from Australia.

Also aware of the global consumer trend for beauty and fitness, the Philippine government is now aggressively promoting the country as a health vacation destination in Asia.

"There is no denying it. The trends show soaring sales for skin lightening and anti-wrinkle products for the skin care market; recent product developments obviously incorporate the ever-changing Filipino lifestyle in the formulation of two-in-one variants; and the emergence of aromatherapy and other anti-stress devices, among many others, indicate the continuous and tremendous growth of the beauty and fitness sector in the many years to come," Romero added.

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PICKING OTHERS' TRASH

Bank goes to island where it left gold 64 yrs ago

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

100 STANDARD Chartered Bank officials take time to visit Corregidor and clean its shores.

WHEN the Japanese imperial army invaded Manila at the outbreak of World War II in 1941, it took over the offices of Standard Chartered Bank, then known as The Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, at the 2nd floor of the Wilson Building in Binondo and made it its Treasury headquarters.

Fortunately, Chartered Bank officials were able to evacuate part of its gold reserves to the island of Corregidor, the last refuge of battle-weary American and Filipino forces and the seat of the besieged Commonwealth government under President Manuel L. Quezon.

More than sixty years later, more than 100 top officials of Standard Chartered Bank, led by its CEO Simon Morris, trudged back to Corregidor last May 7 to 8.

They did not carry gold this time, but gloves, trash bags and dustpans to pick up the mounds of trash from Metro Manila and Cavite that the currents washed up on the beaches of Corregidor as part of their "Eco Weekend."

Morris tells SundayBiz that the senior and middle management team's heart sank when they first got to the beach just after dawn of May 8 because it was littered with bottles, cans, plastic, rubber slippers, tin cans, styro packages and even used syringes.

"At first we thought that we would not be able to make a difference because there was just too much trash. We thought we would never get it cleaned," Morris says.

But after about three hours, with the 100 or so employees working in teams in different parts of the beach, over 100 bags full of trash were pulled out, transforming the beach into something people could actually swim in.

They were tired from all that work in the infamous Corregidor heat, but their chests were puffed up with pride at having achieved something significant on Mother's Day—caring for Mother Earth.

"It just goes to show that achieving something does not always mean individuals doing a whole lot, but a whole lot of individuals doing their little bit," Morris says.

Joining Morris on the trip include Owen Belman, head, consumer banking; Toto Tansingco, head, global markets; Chandradeshkar Raj, country financial officer; Marivel Gonzales, head, loegal and compliance; Annie Gonzales, head, human resources, and Zeny Iglesias, head, corporate affairs.

Other senior officers who took part in the Eco weekend include Gerry Tiamson, general manager of wealth management; Sanjay Aggarwal, general manager of credit cards and personal loans; Gabor Kovacs, head of credit; Chu Baustis, head of large multinationals and Bobby Fernandez, head of fixed income.

Morris says the employees not only did their share to protect the environment, they also got the chance to bond with colleagues they just bump into along the office corridors.

And what better venue to bond than Corregidor—the site of one of the most significant battles during World War II?

It was Morris who broached the idea of getting Standard Chartered employees to visit Corregidor because he thought after first seeing it in 2003 that it was a historical place that everybody, especially Filipinos, should visit.

It was two years later when the Standard Chartered finally organized the trip with military precision to get top officials and middle managers to visit Corregidor and at the same time do their bit for the environment, one of the key advocacies of the Standard Chartered global organization.

Morris says he was a little bit surprised to learn that as much as 70 percent of the staff who went on the trip said it was their first time to set foot on Corregidor.

"I guess if it is right on your doorstep, you tend to take it for granted," he says.

Not anymore, if Standard Chartered would have its way.

He says the bank intends to visit the island once a year and include it in its long list of corporate responsibility projects.

Standard Chartered has set aside some funds to help Corregidor Foundation Inc. in its mission to protect the island's irreplaceable treasures, which are an indelible part of Philippine history.

Corregidor attracts close to 100,000 visitors a year and plans are underway to further develop it as an ideal site for sports and recreation, on top of its attractions as a historical landmark.

Standard Chartered intends to help Corregidor Foundation see its plans through.

The employees intend to go back and bring their families, not to look for the still missing gold, but to soak up history and be proud to be a Filipino.

STANDARD Chartered CEO Simon Morris (top photo) leads cleanup of Corregidor's shores.
PHOTOS BY RAFFY LERMA

Revival of mining industry to increase incomes

THE NEDA estimates the country's mineral wealth to be worth from $800 billion to $1 trillion.

MANKAYAN used to be a boomtown in the Cordillera before the 80s. Merchants from all over swarmed this settlement during weekends, selling all kinds of merchandise to its residents who earned top money working in the gold and copper mines of the Lepanto Mining Co.

When world prices for copper concentrate plunged to its lowest beginning 1981, the mines shut down. The hustle and bustle in Mankayan slowed down to a sleepy pace. Then several of its residents migrated to Baguio City in search of jobs.

Today, there is hope that Mankayan will resume its heady economic days when the mines come alive again. The world prices of copper, gold and silver have recovered. But the biggest cause for this optimism is the recent decision of the Supreme Court upholding the constitutionality of the Mining Act of 1995, including the opening up of ownership of the mines to foreign investors.

Says Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo L. Neri: "This landmark decision sends a clear signal that investors in the sector, including foreign investors, are welcome."

The mining industry is among the top 10 priority industry sectors identified by the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan (MTPDP) 2004-2010 that could help accomplish the administration's agenda of providing work for 10 million Filipinos and helping increase incomes within the decade.

Today, mines in operation include 12 medium-size to large-scale metallic activities in the extraction of gold, copper, nickel and chromite. Aside from these are 15 cement plants and quarries, 80 small to medium-scale limestone quarries, 90 rock aggregate quarries and crushing plants, 22 small to medium-size marble quarries and more than 2,000 small quarries and mines of various metallic and nonmetallic items.

For this year, five new mining projects are expected to go on stream. With total investments totaling $4.3 billion, these include Boyongan Copper and Nonoc Nickel mines in Surigao del Norte; Far-Southeast Gold in Mankayan, Benguet; Pujada Nickel in Davao Oriental, and another nickel mine in Mindoro island.

The National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) said the mining industry previously contributed about one to 2 percent to the country's gross domestic product (GDP). While its gross value added has increased through the years, at P5.73 billion in 1975 to P11.5 billion in 1993 and P17.85 billion in 2003, its share to the GDP has remained relatively constant.

What mining can contribute

The Neda estimates the country's mineral wealth to be worth from $800 billion to $1 trillion. This amount is 14 to 17 times the current Philippine external debt of $57 billion. Extracting only a tenth of this mineral wealth is more than enough to wipe out this debt, Neri, who is also Neda's director general, points out.

Mining could also provide substantial taxes to the government, especially for local governments. In 2003, the Bureau of Mines and Geosciences estimated that mining tax revenues collected amounted to P2.6 billion. Of this amount, a third went to local governments.

If the mining industry were in full swing and the annual targeted $5 to 7 billion foreign exchange earnings estimated by the MTPDP were realized, this would translate into roughly P17 to 23 billion annual tax revenues for the government. This tax intake could greatly help in financing its huge development initiatives aimed at improving the quality of lives of all Filipinos.

Another significant potential of a strong mining sector is that it could trigger downstream and related economic activities especially for the communities that host the mining activities. For instance, large-scale mining operations have usually been accompanied by infrastructure facilities that benefit local communities including power, water, roads, housing and schools.

These basic facilities have expanded livelihood activities and generally improved the quality of life in the mining areas. And to ensure that mining activities would not harm the environment, the local communities could also serve as watchdogs over the activities of the mining companies.

A tale of underachievement

Since 1980, when the mining industry contributed a high $1.17 billion in exports revenues, this sector's share in exports had steadily declined. Its share to total Philippine exports dropped from 24 percent in 1973 to only 2 percent in 2004.

Investments in mining activities were at its lowest in 1997 at $2.84 million despite the passage of the Mining Act two years before. Investments surged to $161.26 million in 1998 to a high of $239.47 million only because of the discovery and development of the Malampaya natural gas deposit off Palawan.

The poor performance of the mining sector in the past was traced to the the low mineral prices, the 1996 Marcopper incident which heightened opposition to mining, prolonged deliberations on the constitutionality of the Mining Act of 1995.

From 1979 to 2002, metallic minerals accounted for 62 percent of the country's total mineral production value while nonmetals accounted for the rest. Of the total mineral production value, gold had the highest share at 36 percent followed by copper at 21 percent.

Fulfilling its promise

With the favorable high court decision upholding the constitutionality of the Mining Act, Neri cited four other factors that should help the mining industry grow -- vast, untapped mineral resources of the country; prevailing high prices of minerals and metals; completion of Philippine Mineral Action Plan; priority given to revival of sector. *Edwin P. Daiwey, DevNews&Features*

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Godiva bags two awards

SKIN care company Godiva Inc was recently conferred two prestigious awards for being an outstanding manufacturer and distributor of natural skin care products. It was awarded the 2004 Top Skin Whitening Cream Award by the National Consumer Affairs Foundation in the recently concluded 21st Annual Year-Ender Excellence Awards held at the AFP Theater in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

The company was likewise bestowed the No. 1 Natural Skin Care Products (National) award at the Hotel Dusit Nikko, Makati City by the 2004 National Shoppers' Choice Annual Awards for its excellence in product quality, company reputation, brand recognition and consumer services.

Godiva's Licorice Skin Whitening Cream - its flagship product - emerged as the best skin whitening product, besting other local skin whiteners in the market. The company's use of licorice extract, a safe and effective ingredient for its whitening products, proved to be a fundamental part in its success locally and even internationally.

"We are honored to accept this recognition," said Eduardo Rada, general manager of Godiva Inc, who received the citation during the awarding ceremonies. He adds, "We are confident that Godiva will continue to provide the Filipino consumer with safe and highly-effective natural skin care products in the coming years."

Godiva is the first Filipino company to tap licorice as a main ingredient in whitening products. While other companies have thus followed suit, Godiva still remains at the forefront of skin whitening innovations as it continues to introduce more products in its skin care line. Aside from skin whitening, Godiva's product line includes anti-aging, suncare, anti-acne, anti-stress and pregnancy care.

It currently sells its skin care products internationally through its online stores at www.i-godiva.com and www.godivaskincare.com, with markets spread throughout the United States, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East.

The 2004 National Shoppers' Choice Annual Awards is spearheaded by the Asia-Pacific Shopper's Choice Institute, Shoppers' Choice Magazine, Essence Privilege Card, Hernz KPMR Marketing Inc and the Asian-Philippine Association of Marketing Professionals. This is the first time Godiva has been recognized as an outstanding skin care company by the award-giving body.

Similarly, the Year-Ender Consumers Excellence Awards is an annual tribute to the Philippines' best consumer products which have contributed significantly to the well-being of local consumers. Consumer and opinion surveys were conducted as basis for the selection of the awardees.

In 2002, Godiva was also bestowed three awards, including the National Consumers Excellence Award for Most Outstanding and Innovative Skin Care Product.

MONTEREY IS BUYER'S CHOICE AWARDEE

In recognition of the brands that best influence the purchasing power of consumers, the Awards and Recognition Association of the Philippines held the 2004 Buyer's Choice Awards at the Garden Ballroom of Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. It aims to be an annual event that takes into account consumer's testimonials, votes, and evaluations for the products and services which they feel are the best in the market. Monterey Foods Corp was awarded for being the Most Outstanding Premium Meat Shop. This recognition proved the company's dedication to serve and satisfy their consumers. Shown in photo is Juan Roberto Pagula (2nd from left), Monterey Foods Corp key accounts manager, accepting the award.

LOOKING FOR A HERO WITH GAWAD AGILA 2004

The people behind Gawad Agila, ang 'Pangkondisyon sa may Ambisyon' - Gold Eagle Beer found several true modern day Filipino heroes for its 2nd year. The search began last year and ended February of this year, with hundreds of responsible, respectable individuals in the community who have lived by the ideals and values espoused by Gold Eagle Beer. From among these candidates, only five were chosen as finalists - Melchor Tumbos from Bacolod, Amajelito Danial from Gen. Santos, German Anggot Jr from Misamis Oriental, Ted Ong from Iloilo, and Gilbert Duduaco from Davao. After almost a year of accumulating votes - Melchor Tumbos, the 'Disabled Filipino of the Year' 2002 recipient was hailed Top Gawad Agila Awardee. Tumbos is a teacher/social worker who has been blind since age three and is now currently involved in several programs for the handicapped for their municipality in Bacolod. The Awards Night was held at the ABS CBN Regional Station in Cebu last Feb. 19, and was attended by a few prominent figures in the community. All of the 2nd Gawad Agila finalists received a plaque and cash prizes which they will use to further their community work.

1st 'Math Galing Quiz Bee sa TIP' winners awarded

THE TECHNOLOGICAL Institute of the Philippines, Manila located at 1338 Arlegui St., Quiapo, Manila served as the venue for the school's First "Math Galing Quiz Bee sa TIP" held on Friday, Feb. 4. Hosted by the TIP Mathematics and Physics Department, in cooperation with the TIP Central Student Council and the Math and Physics Society, the contest was one of the highlights in the celebration of the 2005 Founder's Day and 43rd Foundation Anniversary of the school.

The First "Math Galing Quiz Bee sa TIP" was endorsed to principals, heads of public/private high school and supervisors by the Schools Division superintendent, Ma. Luisa S. Quiñones, and the Assistant Schools Division superintendent and OIC, Office of the Superintendent, Evelina M. Viloria. The objectives of the Quiz Bee were: a). Promote and enhance the mathematical skills of high school students, b). Instill awareness and appreciation on the importance of mathematics in the study of science and technology-based courses, and c). Generate awareness among high school students on the important use of mathematics in the overall support for government priority thrusts in science and technology development.

Thirty-nine public and private high schools in Metro Manila and nearby provinces sent their student representatives to the Quiz Bee with official endorsements from their respective principals and accompanied by their respective coaches.

Kristian Mamforte with coach Romeo Llames of Rizal High School bagged the 1st place, while Von Karlo Sinence with coach Imelda Olvida of Parang High School placed 2nd, and Jim Monforte with coach Rosita Falible of Francisco College got the 3rd place.

The three Quiz Bee winners were awarded cash prizes and college scholarships at the Technological Institute of the Philippines by the TIP senior vice president, Dr. Demetrio U. Quirino, III, vice president for Academic Affairs, Dr. Maria Consuelo V. Flora, and research director, Dr. Jesusa N. Padilla.

CALTEX GIVES RED CROSS A HAND

In addition to the P2.4 million donation of Caltex Phils and its parent company ChevronTexaco to the Philippine National Red Cross, the Caltex Drive Team Volunteers (CDTV), Caltex Phils' flagship volunteer corps, gave PNRC chair Senator Richard Gordon a hand by contributing personal time and 'sweat equity' to help pack relief goods at the Red Cross headquarters.

THE DOCUMENT COMPANY
FUJI XEROX

THUMBS UP FOR FUJI XEROX

To mark its 40th year of successful business in the Philippines, Fuji Xerox Phils, the largest provider of document solutions in the country, sponsored the most colorful event of the season. Extreme Color Fusion '05 showcased the latest, most impressive complete line of color-capable technology from Fuji Xerox for managing the document lifecycle. Shown is the latest offering from FXP, the Document Centre C Series. The DCC is a full color, digital multifunction machine that is more than just a print, scan and fax system. It is a complete document solutions manager that enables a mobile office to stay connected and work hands on anytime, anywhere. Giving the thumbs up sign are (from left): Fuji Xerox executive vice president for sales and marketing Kazuhide Kurumasa, assistant vice president for corporate affairs John Dulay, Armvet chief executive officer Aris Del Mundo, FXP product manager for software Leonard Lizarondo, and color product manager Issa Aviles. The event was held from Feb. 28 to March 1 at the grand ballroom of the Mandarin Oriental.

Bankard offers hassle-free online payment

IN TODAY'S frenzied and highly mobile lifestyle, 'paper-less' transactions have become more a necessity than a fad. Recognizing this need, credit card industry pioneer Bankard Inc offers a convenient online payment facility via its website at www.bankard.com.

By accessing the website, holders of Bankard MasterCard, Bankard Visa, Bankard JCB or myDream JCB can view their statement of account and pay for their bills online hassle-free.

"This is part of the 'rewards' of being a Bankard cardholder," remarked Irene Taylo, marketing and sales group head. "It's the invaluable benefit of being able to check your outstanding balance and available credit and settling your card dues within the comfort of your home or office. This is Bankard's way of responding to its cardholders' ever-changing needs given today's high-tech environment," she said.

With just the click of a mouse, a Bankard cardholder can do practically any transaction involving his account - whether it be simply statement viewing, or bills payment, or even balance transfer, Taylo explained. "Essentially, it's offering all the conveniences of using a Bankard credit card," she added.

As if these convenient features are not enough, Bankard enables cardholders to settle their dues without having to open an account with just one bank. Since Bankard's online payment service is powered by BancNet Online, its cardholders can pay for their bills by maintaining an account with any BancNet-member bank, Taylo explained.

What's more, the same website offers other 'easy' features such as online application, enrollment in e-statement via e-mail service, and access to Bankard's latest promos and product offerings, Taylo said.

Bankard Inc is a pioneer and a leader in the Philippine credit card industry, with almost 25 years of experience in card issuing and acquiring. A proud member of the Yuchengco Group of Companies, Bankard issues international cards under the Mastercard, Visa and JCB brands.

GTBC OPENS AT MARKET! MARKET!

Globe Telecom further extends its reach to better serve its loyal patrons with the recent opening of its 80th Globe Telecom Business Center (GTBC) at Market! Market! in Bonifacio Global City (BGC). Photo shows teen idol Danilo Barrios, SCQ reload star Melissa Ricks, MUB segment host Louie Villaruz cutting the ribbon to signal the opening of the GTBC at Market! Market! Open daily from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., GTBC is located at the 4th floor of Market! Market!

WACOAL LAUNCHES PERFECT FIT CAMPAIGN

Philippine Wacoal Corp launched a one-of-a-kind awareness campaign dubbed as the 'Perfect Fit' lecture series with beauty queen and image expert Abbygale Arenas-de Leon as the spokesperson. The official launch was held at Makati Shangri-La with Philippine Wacoal Corp president and CEO Toshihisa Tanaka spearheading the event. During the launch, de Leon talked about the importance of wearing a proper bra for women of different sizes and lifestyles. The 'Perfect Fit' campaign is Wacoal's major advocacy initiative this year and serves as the company's way of expressing their gratitude for the continued patronage of Filipino women. Photo shows Wacoal spokesperson Abbygale Arenas-de Leon; Elmira Cadungog, merchandising manager of PWC; and Toshihisa Tanaka, PWC president.

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Co. needs entrepreneurs, direct & inst'l, sales distributors, &/or exclusive partners to offer therapeutic & anti aging skin care lines, aroma specialty & spa products based on ancient principle of Austrian Naturophatic Formulation of holistic medicine. Also entrepreneurs with a current business with a store front offering skin care and wellness products.

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Email: rolfe_multi_l@yahoo.com
Or visit Unit 1107 Sunnette Towers, Durban St., cor. Makati Ave., Makati City 1201

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

SPC DISPOSAL COMMITTEE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

Notice is hereby given that the Security Plant Complex, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) will sell serviceable/used and unserviceable equipment such as Cleaver Brooks Packaged Boiler and printing equipment, carbonless paper, and other scrap materials thru sealed bids which must be received by the SPC Disposal Committee not later than 10:00 a.m. on 23 May 2005 at Room 504, 5th Floor, Building A, BSP Security Plant Complex, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

Interested parties may inspect the said items during regular working days from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. at the BSP Security Plant Complex before 23 May 2005.

Auction forms and other information may be obtained from the SPC Disposal Committee's Secretary, Ms. Digna Z. Batalla at Room 305, 3rd Floor, Building A, BSP Security Plant Complex, East AVenue, Diliman, Quezon City, Tel. No. 926-3464.

(Sgd.) **ORLANDO B. ASIDDAO**
Chairman

(PDI – May 15, 2005)

Notice of Search for Southern Leyte State University Presidency Sogod, Southern Leyte

Minimum Personal Qualifications:

1. Must be a citizen of the Philippines
2. A holder of a Doctorate Degree.
3. Must have a proven track record as top administrator (at least Deanship level), whether in private or public, for at least a period of five (5) years.
4. Must be of good moral character and has no record of criminal, civil and/or administrative conviction.
5. Preferably not more than sixty (60) years old on the date of application.

Note: Qualified applicants are requested to submit the following:

1. Formal Application Letter addressed to:

   Honorable Chairman of the Board of Regents
   Southern Leyte State University
   Sogod, Southern Leyte
   Attention: **The Secretariat**
   Search Committee for Presidency
2. Detailed Curriculum Vitaé and authenticated supporting documents
3. Applicant's Proposed Vision, Mission and Executive Summary of the Development Plan for the university
4. Neuro-psychiatric Examination Result accomplished by any government physician of an accredited health institution (must be submitted sealed directly to the Secretariat)
5. Medical Certificate of Physical Fitness from a government physician
6. Clearance Certificates from the following:
   - a. Ombudsman
   - b. Sandiganbayan
   - c. Civil Service Commission
   - d. National Bureau of Investigation

Important: Interested applicants must send the above-mentioned documentary requirements in seven (7) sets/copies to the Search Committee through the Secretariat on or before **JULY 22, 2005.**

1. **MS. MABEL R. CALVA**
   Board Secretary
   Southern Leyte State University
   Sogod Southern Leyte 6606
2. **DR. MARIA RITA C. ORTIZ**
   Officer In-Charge
   Commission on Higher Education
   Regional Office No. VIII
   Tacloban City 6500
3. **JEANETTE B. LUMAPAS**
   Office of Commissioner Carlito S. Puno
   Commission on Higher Education
   DAP Building, Ortigas Center,
   San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

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* Available within Metro Manila and in key cities outside of GMA.
Proposed sites and filed applications are subject to evaluation.
** For all landline phone numbers, please call during office hours, 9:00am-5:00pm, Monday-Friday.

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

DULCE AMOR AGUINALDO DOLATRE

This is to inform the public that **DULCE AMOR AGUINALDO DOLATRE** of # 106 Lourdes Street, Marcela, Caloocan City and whose picture appears above has been CONVICTED and found guilty of QUALIFIED THEFT by the RTC-Makati, Branch 134 in Criminal Case No. *01-1101*, entitled ***"People of the Philippines vs. Dulce Amor A. Dolatre"***. A reward will be given to any person who will give information for her immediate arrest. Please call Ms. Eden de Guzman at (0919) 622-43-40.

(PDI – May 1, 8 & 15, 2005)

PAG-IBIG FUND
INVITATION FOR NEGOTIATED SALE

Please be informed that the following acquired properties of Pag-IBIG Fund are being offered for negotiated sale, joint venture and other modes of disposal which may be acceptable to the Fund.

PROPERTY LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	NO. OF UNITS South Sector (A)	NO. OF UNITS North Sector (B)
QUEZON CITY			
SMILE CITIHOMES Zabarte Rd., Bo. Kaligayahan Novaliches (near SM & Robinson Malls)	Condo type, Bldg. A to O / Cluster 1 to 5 / ground floor up to 5th floor w/ min. floor area 30 sq.m. typical all floors.	221	
BULACAN			
HARMONY HILLS Muzon, SJDM, Bulacan	RH-REG / RH-CORE / RH-END / RH-BARE TYPE / RH-INT with min. lot area 35 to 60 sq.m. / floor area 20 to 30 sq.m.	237	
CARISSA HOMES NORTH Sto. Cristo, SJDM, Bulacan	RH / RH-REG with min. lot area 35 to 40 sq.m. / floor area 20 to 26 sq.m.	10	
NORTHGATE PARK EXEC. HOMES, Sto. Cristo, SJDM, Bulacan	TH / TH-EU with min. lot area 38 to 60 sq.m. / floor area 38 to 60 sq.m.	10	
CAVITE			
MABUHAY CITY DASMARIÑAS Paliparan, Dasmariñas, Cavite	SA / SD / RH / RH-EU / RH-REG / 20-RH1 / 25-SA / 25-SD with min. lot area 36 to 100 sq.m. / floor area 20 to 25 sq.m.	493	
BELVEDERE Bo. Quintana, Tanza, Cavite Bo. Pasong Kawayan, Gen. Trias, Cavite	RHI-C / RHI-V / RH-REG / RH-REG-VILL / RH-REG-CON / RH-END-VILL / RH-END COR with min. lot area 36 to 80 sq.m. / floor area 20.12 sq.m.		296
SUNNY BROOKE Bo. Elang Gen. Trias, Cavite	RG-REG / RH-REG-C / RH-REG-V / RH-END / RH-REG-V W/MEZZ / RH-REG-C W/MEZZ / TH-VILLAROZA(R) with min. lot area 35 to 70 sq.m. / floor area 20.12 sq.m.		290
CITIHOMES RESORTVILLE Lancaan, Dasmariñas, Cavite	RH / RH-E / RH-CORE INT. / RH-INT / SA with min. lot area 35 to 75 sq.m. floor area 20 to 36 sq.m.	210	
MABUHAY HOMES 2000 SALAWAG / PALIPARAN Dasmariñas, Cavite	SA / SD / RH / RH-REG / RH-END RH-IU with min. lot area 36 to 63 sq.m. / floor area 20 to 43 sq.m.	118	
CAPITOL HILLS EXEC. SUBD. Bo. Lapidario, Trece Martires City, Cavite	RH-REG / RH-END / DUPLEX with min. lot area 39 to 75 sq.m. / floor area 24 to 30 sq.m.		105
BUKLOD BAHAYAN Tartaria, Silang, Cavite	RH / RH-REG / RH-EU with min. lot area 35 to 45 sq.m. / floor area 21 to 35 sq.m.	89	
RANCHO IMPERIAL DE SILANG, Bo. Tartaria, Silang, Cavite	RH / RH-REG / RH-EU with min. lot area 35 sq.m. / floor area 21 sq.m.		35
CARISSA HOMES TANZA Bo. Bagtas, Tanza, Cavite	RH-REG / RH-END / QDX with min. lot area 33 to 54 sq.m. / floor area 18 to 20.62 sq.m.		44
REGINA VILLE 2000 Trece Martires, Cavite	RH with min lot area 35 to 53 sq.m. / floor area 22 to 50 sq.m.	22	
ARMSTRONG VILLAGE Bo. Salawag, Dasmariñas, Cavite	RH / RH-REG with min. lot area 38 sq.m. floor area 21 sq.m.	15	
LAGUNA			
MABUHAY CITY CABUYAO Mamatid, Cabuyao, Laguna	RH / RH-REG / RH-EU / RH1 / 20-RH1 / SA / SD with min. lot area 36 to 63 sq.m. / floor area 20 to 63 sq.m.	258	
CELESTINE HOMES Marinig, Cabuyao, Laguna	RH with min lot area 40 sq.m. / floor area 24 to 40 sq.m.	20	
RIZAL			
MABUHAY HOMES 2000 BINANGONAN Darangan, Binangonan, Rizal	RH / RH-REG / RH-END / RH-IU with min. lot area 43 to 70 sq.m. / floor area 25 to 43 sq.m.	100	
SANTA BARBARA VILLAS Silangan, San Mateo, Rizal	RH / RH-INNER / RH W/LOFT with min. lot area 35.50 sq.m. / floor area 31.95 to 35.50 sq.m.	37	
MEDALVA HILLS San Isidro, Angono, Rizal	Lot only with min. lot area 90 to 200 sq.m.		11

For inquiries, please call Pag-IBIG Fund at the following telephone numbers;

A. NCR Housing – South Sector
Tel. # 848-8242 / 848-8250 / 830-0302 / 811-3900
Address. Rm. 201, 2nd Floor, The Atrium of Makati Bldg., Makati Ave., Makati City

B. NCR Housing – North Sector
Tel. # 634-8344 / 834-8391 / 937-5431
Address: 11th Floor, Pacific Center Bldg., San Miguel Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City

(Sgd.) **RAFAEL ODES M. ABAÑO III**
CHAIRMAN,
COMMITTEE ON DISPOSITION OF ACQUIRED ASSETS

(PDI – May 8 & 15, 2005)

"eCODE Inc. is a start up IT Company which provides programming and encoding services for clients in the US."

Position: Operations Manager

Job Description:

The candidate will have overall responsibility for managing the smooth flow of operations of a team of billing specialists, particularly in meeting clients' expectations. This position leads a team of shift supervisors to ensure that all training and development needs of the operations staff are met. He/she shall, likewise, oversee the activities of the other depts. in the company including Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology. It requires graveyard shift schedule.

Qualifications:

2-5 years managerial experience pref. in a medical transcription/call center company. Excellent leadership, highly analytical and with good problem-solving skills. Able to operate independently and in consultation with top management. Highly proficient in software applications (Excel, Access).

Please send your resumé and transcript of records to:
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FOODSPHERE, INC.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to advise the public that unscrupulous persons continue to represent themselves as sales personnel of CDO-FOODSPHERE, INC. selling CDO products at exorbitant prices. They also promise to deliver freezers and/or hotdog steamers / rollers after asking for a reservation fee.

The Company does not collect reservation fees for freezer nor for other equipment related to selling hotdogs, hams and other fresh processed meats. In order to protect the consuming public, you are advised to go to the nearest wet market, sari-sari store, grocery or supermarket when buying CDO products, where you can be assured of genuine products at affordable prices.

Persons caught misrepresenting the Company shall be dealt with the fullest extent of the law. For inquires you may call (02) 294-1111 loc. 237 (Customer Service).

The Management
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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
ITB NO.: 04-23-2005

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) is inviting all interested bidders in its forthcoming public bidding for the project stated hereunder:

Project : Supply and Delivery

Lot 1 : 183,168 rolls Tissue Paper
Approved Budget : Nine Hundred Fifty Six Thousand One Hundred Thirty Six & 96/100 Pesos (Php 956,136.96)

Lot 2 : 122,220 packs Paper Towel, Class B
Approved Budget : Two Million Six Hundred Eighty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Forty & 00/100 Pesos (Php 2,688,840.00)

Only suppliers duly reigstered with PAGCOR may be allowed to participate in the bidding. Unregistered suppliers must register at the Suppliers Registration & Evaluation Section (SRES), Procurement & Property Department (PPD), 2nd Floor PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita Manila, Tel. No. 526-0573.

The detailed project particulars and instructions to bidders are discussed in the **Bid Documents** available for issuance from **May 4, 2005 to May 30, 2005** at the BAC Secretariat Unit, PPD-Corporate upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***Seven Hundred Pesos (Php 700.00) for Lot 1 and One Thousand Three Hundred Forty Four & 42/100 Pesos (Php 1,344.42) for Lot 2.*** In order to secure the documents, bidders should present the Official Receipt issued by our Cashier to the BAC Secretary handling the project.

Pre-Bid Conference : May 19, 2005 (2:00 p.m.)
Submission of Bids : May 31, 2005 (10:00 a.m.)
Opening of Bids : May 31, 2005 (10:00 a.m. onwards)

PAGCOR has the right to disqualify any prospective bidder if found that they have submitted falsified documents and/or information, and the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, to waive any defects or formalities found therein and to accept such bid or a part thereof as may be deemed most advantageous to PAGCOR, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

PAGCOR reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract if there is *prima facie* evidence of collusion between appropriate public officers or employees of the agency, or between the BAC and any of the bidders, or if the collusion is between or among the bidders themselves, or between a bidder and a third party, including any act which restricts, suppresses or nullifies or tends to restrict, suppress or nullify competition, or if the BAC is found to have failed to follow the prescribed bidding procedures, or for any justifiable and reasonable ground where the award of the contract will not redound to the benefit of the government (R.A. 9184, Sec. 41).

Please address all communications to the BAC Secretariat Unit, Procurement & Property Department.

(Sgd.) **RENE C. FIGUEROA**
Chairperson, BAC 1

(PDI--May 8 & 15, 2005)

PACO CITIZEN ACADEMY

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5634762 / 5646189 / 5646191

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We offer both English & Chinese Subjects

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BD in the Philippines is a medical technology company that imports and markets a broad range of medical supplies, devices, laboratory equipment, and diagnostic products for use by healthcare institutions, life science researchers, clinical laboratories, and the general public. BD is a multinational Fortune 500 enterprise with headquarters based in New Jersey, USA. In the Philippines, we are in need of:

SUB – DEALER FOR SOUTH LUZON

The selected sub-dealer will market the following **Diabetes Care** products:
- BD Insulin Syringes
- BD Pen Needles
- BD Lancets and Devices

Target clients:
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- Drugstores
- Selected private and government hospitals

Sales and Marketing Responsibilities:
- Sales booking, delivery and collection
- Sales coverage, product promotion/demonstration to target clients
- Implement strategic marketing activities as may be required by BD

Requirements:
- Must be financially viable
- Must have sales and marketing team to reach out target accounts.
- Should be based in South Luzon area
- Must be in the pharma/ medical supplies business for at least two years
- Carrying complementing pharmaceutical products is an advantage

For interested entrepreneurs, please send in your proposal until **May 31, 2005** to:

BD
27th Floor, PBCom Tower
6795 Ayala Avenue corner VA Rufino St.
1226 Makati City
tel: (02) 815.8981
or email at: marketing_ph@bd.com
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INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals together with the 10% bid bond for the purchase on **CASH BASIS** of the Bank properties listed below will be received at the **Special Assets Department, 30th Floor, LBP Plaza, Malate, Manila** not later than **May 24, 2005 @ 10:00 A.M.** at which place, date & time, said proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

In case of **CLOSELY CLUSTERED TOP BIDS** (defined as having the second highest bid which is not below 90% of the highest bid), the opening of the sealed bids will be immediately followed by an open bidding in which all bidders whose bids are not below 80% of the highest bid may participate. **The minimum increase in the open bidding should not be lower than P1,000.00.**

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION		LOCATION	MINIMUM BID
1.	700 sq.m. Parcel of land w/ 236.50 sq.m. two-storey building/ showroom & 240 sq.m. three-storey office building	Rodriguez Avenue, Concepcion, Marikina City	7,087,000.00
2.	700 sq.m. Parcel of land w/ 1,226 sq.m. two-storey shoe factory bldg.	Rodriguez Avenue, Concepcion. Marikina City	5,696,000.00
3.	24 residential condominium units		
	Tower A		
	21G @ 77 sq.m. - PS B1 S087, LG-S045 & LG-S057	Kingswood Condominium Metropolitan Ave. cor Pasong Tamo Sts., Makati City	4,214,000.00
	14A @ 77 sq.m.		3,234,000.00
	11G @ 77 sq.m.		3,234,000.00
	5B @ 77 sq.m.		2,926,000.00
	3F @ 77 sq.m. - PS B2-S037		3,226,000.00
	3B @ 77 sq.m. - PS B2-S039		3,226,000.00
	Tower B		
	23H @ 77 sq.m. - PS B1-S036		3,564,000.00
	21H @ 77 sq.m. - PS B2-S072		3,564,000.00
	20H @ 77 sq.m. - PS B1-S038		3,584,000.00
	19H @ 77 sq.m. - PS B2-S038		3,564,000.00
	19G @ 77 sq.m.		3,234,000.00
	19H @ 77 sq.m. - PS B2-S069		3,564,000.00
	15B @ 77 sq.m. - PS B2-S068		3,564,000.00
	11E @ 77 sq.m.		3,234,000.00
	7B @ 77 sq.m.		3,080,000.00
	7F @ 77 sq.m.		3,080,000.00
	7H @ 77 sq.m. - PS B2 S066		3,380,000.00
	6E @ 77 sq.m. - PS B2 S040		3,256,000.00
	6H @ 77 sq.m. - PS B2 S065		3,256,000.00
	4A @ 77 sq.m. - PS B2 S071		3,226,000.00
	4B @ 77 sq.m. - PS B2 S070		3,226,000.00
	4D @ 77 sq.m. - PS B2 S067		3,226,000.00
	4F @ 77 sq.m. - PS B2 S024		3,273,000.00
	3A @ 77 sq.m. - PS B1 S037		3,226,000.00
4.	248 sq.m. Residential lot with 7-door apartment units	Bo. Jolo (now Brgy. Plainview) Mandaluyong City	3,935,000.00
5.	24 parcels of residential lots	Barrio Tienzo, Lupao, Nueva Ecija	
	N-25883, 91 sq.m.		46,000.00
	N-25884, 100 sq.m.		50,000.00
	N-25885, 91 sq.m.		46,000.00
	N-25886, 385 sq.m.		193,000.00
	N-25887, 1,194 sq.m.		597,000.00
	N-25891, 308 sq.m.		154,000.00
	N-25893, 408 sq.m.		204,000.00
	N-25894, 415 sq.m.		208,000.00
	N-25895, 125 sq.m.		63,000.00
	N-25896, 488 sq.m.		244,000.00
	N-25903, 618 sq.m.		309,000.00
	N-25905, 522 sq.m.		261,000.00
	N-25906, 717 sq.m.		359,000.00
	N-25907, 556 sq.m.		278,000.00
	N-25888, 543 sq.m.		217,000.00
	N-25889, 166 sq.m.		66,000.00
	N-25890, 167 sq.m.		67,000.00
	N-25898, 442 sq.m.		177,000.00
	N-25899, 199 sq.m.		80,000.00
	N-25900, 218 sq.m.		87,000.00
	N-25901, 243 sq.m.		97,000.00
	N-25902. 187 sq.m.		75,000.00
	N-25909, 226 sq.m.		90,000.00
	N-25910, 106 sq.m.		42,000.00

For the complete description of Item Nos. 1-5 including bidding forms, you may look for Ms. Tina Ilasin or Ms. Arlene Velasco at Special Assets Department (SPAD), Land Bank of the Philippines located at the 30th Floor, LBP Plaz, 1598 M.H. Del Pilar cor. Dr. Quintos Sts., Malate, Manila (near Diamond Hotel). Prospective bidders are enjoined to inspect the abovelisted properties before entering their bids. The sale of the properties shall be **on "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis**. The winning bidder/s shall take possession of the awarded properties without seeking assistance from the Bank. The award in favor of the winning bidder/s shall be subject to the approval of the LBP approving authorities.

If for any reason the above-mentioned date is declared a non-working holiday, then the public bidding shall be held on the next working day at the same time and place aforementioned.

LAND BANK RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN AND TO ACCEPT THE BID MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE LBP SHALL BE FINAL AND BINDING.

COMMITTEE ON ASSET DISPOSAL

(PDI - May 15, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

IN THE MATTER OF AMENDING SECTION 4 OF RESOLUTION NO. 7463, PROMULGATED ON 07 APRIL 2005, FOR THE PURPOSE OF RESETTING THE DATE OF RESUMPTION OF CONTINUING REGISTRATION FOR REGIONS IV-B, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII & CARAGA.
x-----------------------------------x

ABALOS, Benjamin, S.	Chairman
JAVIER, Rufino S.B.	Commissioner
SADAIN, Mehol K.	Commissioner
BORRA, Resurreccion Z.	Commissioner
TUASON, Florentino Jr., A	Commissioner
GARCILLANO, Virgilio O.	Commissioner
BARCELONA, Manuel Jr., A.	Commissioner

Promulgated: 13 May 2005

RESOLUTION NO. 7498

WHEREAS, the Commission on Elections promulgated Resolution No. 7463, dated April 7, 2005, entitled "Rules and Regulations on the Resumption of the System of Continuing Registration of Voters and providing for the Use of Data Capturing Machines (DCMs) nationwide";

WHEREAS, Section 4 of Resolution No. 7463 set the resumption of continuing registration nationwide, except ARMM, beginning May 16, 2005 to December 31, 2006.

WHEREAS, the deployment and installation of enhancements for the Data Capturing Machines and the Roving Training Teams from the Information and Technology Department (ITD) that will conduct the trainings for Election Officers (EO) and Election Assistants (EA) for Regions IV-B, V & VI is scheduled from May 30, 2005 to June 11, 2005 and for Regions VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII & CARAGA from June 27, 2005 to July 9, 2005;

WHEREAS, in view of the foregoing, the Commission will be constrained to reschedule the commencement of the resumption of continuing registration of voters for the above-mentioned regions;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Commission, by virtue of its powers vested by the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines, the Omnibus Election Code, Republic Act No. 8189 and other election laws, **RESOLVED**, as it hereby **RESOLVES** to reschedule the commencement of the resumption of continuing registration of voters for **Regions IV-B, V & VI to June 13, 2005** and for **Regions VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII & CARAGA to July 11, 2005**, instead of May 16, 2005. Accordingly, Section 4, Resolution No. 7463 is hereby amended.

Let the Executive Director implement this resolution, copy furnished all field officers concerned for their immediate information and guidance and the Education and Information Department (EID) to cause the dissemination of this resolution and its publication hereof in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

SO ORDERED.

BENJAMIN S. ABALOS
Chairman

RUFINO S. B. JAVIER
Commissioner

MEHOL K. SADAIN
Commissioner

RESURRECCION S. BORRA
Commissioner

(on Official Business)
FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR.
Commissioner

VIRGILIO O. GARCILLANO
Commissioner

(on Official Business)
MANUEL A. BARCELONA, JR.
Commissioner

(PDI – May 15, 2005)

Randy heats up Ratsky Night Live

RANDY Santiago continues to heat up the stage and keep the audience dancing to 80's music to the present with Ratsky Night Live. Get ready as he transforms Ratsky into a big dance floor. Catch Mr. Private Eyes every Saturday at Ratsky Morato on May 14 and 21 with his powerhosue back-up band, Serenity. Presented by Dickies U.S.A. and Ratsky with Sportshouse, Urban Escape Spa and Salon De Manila.

Randy then brings his electrifiying performance to Casino Filipino Tagaytay with Roselle Nava as special guest and Serenity on May 28. He leaves this June for The Filipino Channel shows with the 2nd TFC Popstar in Dubai, then to Germany, Rome, Geveva, Amsterdam and Milan with Rachel Alejandro.

As soon as he gets back, he resumes taping for his new sitcom for ABS-CBN channel 2 with Ai-Ai delas Alas and Vhong Navarro. Get hold of Randy and experience your heatwave this summer.

Meanwhile his bar and restaurant, Ratsky, continues to sizzle featuring a show for this merry month of May with Jericho Rosales and his band Jeans on May 13, Friday. Regular live band performers are S.P.I. – Sundays, Retrospect – Mondays Ntwine & Serenity – Tuesdays, Gladys Guevarra with Gsports & Elements – Wednesdays, K & D Boxers & Ignition – Thursdays, Blow & Tribe of Levi – Fridays, Rage & Mocha w/ spin Art – Saturdays.

Morato branch will have Bamboo as a special guest on May 13, Friday. For the regualr shows; 7th Sign – Sundays, Serenity – Mondays, Arpie & Dmultivitamins & Impulse – Tuesdays, Freeverse & Oona – Wednesdays, Freshmen & Mocha w/ Spin Art – Thursdays, K&D'Boxers & Pure Instinct – Fridays, Art N' Soul – Saturdays.

For reservation and inquiries, please call 373-98-81 to 83 (Morato), 523-86-08 to 10 (Malate) or Private eyes at 713-9907 or 01.

Brokers' accreditation meeting

F. S. DULALIA Realty, the exclusive marketing arm of The Village: Rainbow's End, a nature-inspired "triple A" residential subdivision, recently held a Brokers' Accreditation Meeting at Veniz Hotel in Baguio City. The exclusive subdivision is reserved only for 80 homeowners and is located along Tacay Road, Quezon Hill, Baguio City. The meeting was presided over by FSDR's president Florentino S. Dulalia Jr.

Flanking Dulalia are real estate brokers Norma Mabeza, Estrella Juquiana, Emmanuel Juquiana, Richard Ando, Jocelyn Salvado and Augusto Cuya. With them are their fellow brokers Sofronio Pascua, Roger Serafica, Amy Pablico, Fely Ocampo, Rose de Guzman, Elisa Namoca, Julie Cuyo, Elsa Fernandez, Myrna Espinueva, Augusto Cuya, Rosita Panem, Nida Tolentino, Bernadette Ceidan, Rebecca Akhtoc, John Milan, Ric Bayao, Gagie San Jose, Sheree Nolasco, Sharon Gajonera, Delia Fronda, Flor Abul and Carmen Lomongo. F. S. Dulalia Realty can be reached at (02) 929-2731, 927-0620, telefax 928-6517 or cell phone nos. (0917) 833-5866 and (0920) 962-2939.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

REBAP Magazine

SECOND EDITION

The **Inquirer National Classifieds** in partnership with the **REAL ESTATE BROKERS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (REBAP)** brings forth the **2nd issue** of the **REBAP Magazine** – a tabloid sized supplement to be published on June 29, 2005.

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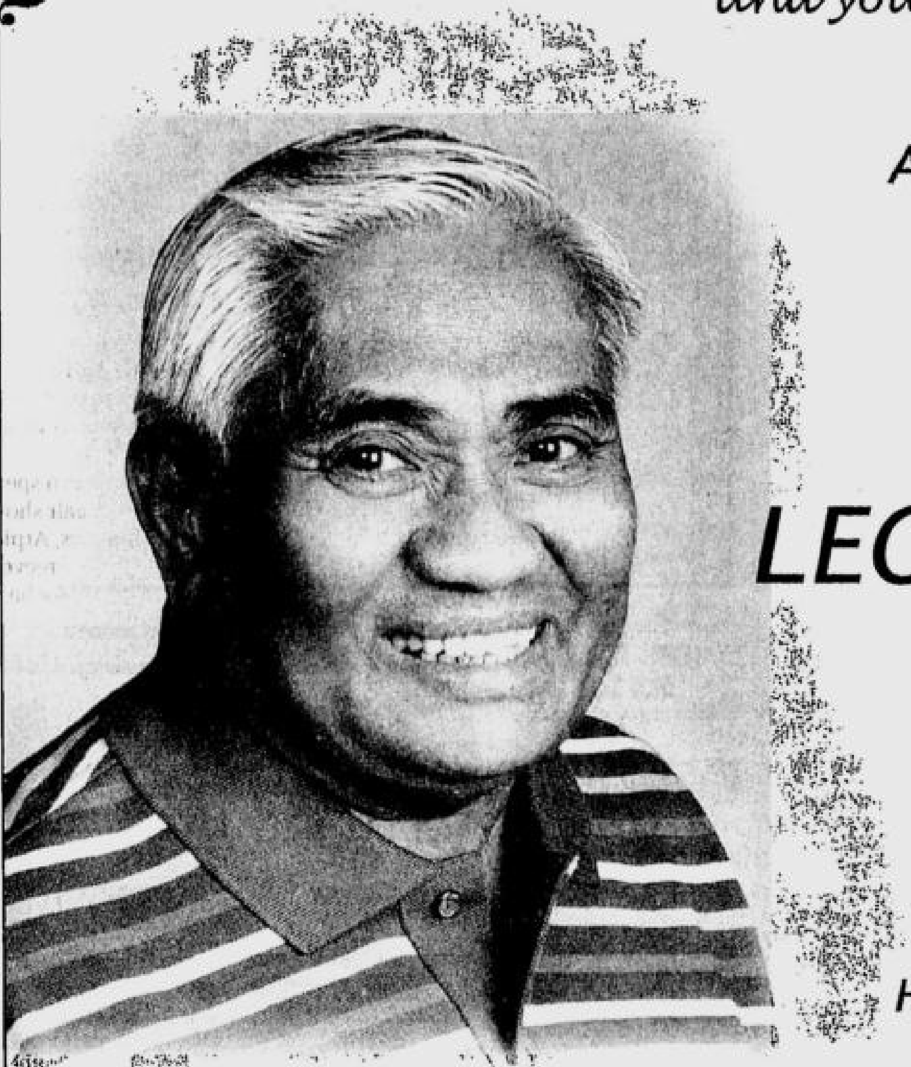


A beloved husband, father, grandfather,
brother and public servant

STA. ROSA CITY MAYOR

LEON CATINDIG ARCILLAS

(1942-2005)

Municipal Mayor: 1998-2004
City Mayor: 2005

Has joined his Creator on May 10, 2005 at the age of 63.

His bereaved wife Offie; children Helly and Jet, Arlene and Raymund, Arnold and Ma. Cecilia; grandchildren Jed, Monica and Miguel; will receive relatives and friends at the family's residence at 1053 P. Vallejo St., Barangay Kanluran, City of Sta. Rosa.

May 15, 2005 - Sunday

9:00 am	-	The body will be transferred from the residence to the Municipal Hall.
1:00 pm	-	Mass will be celebrated at Sta. Rosa de Lima Church; necrological services will follow immediately. Interment will take place in Centennial Garden, Nat'l Highway, Barangay Macabling, City of Sta. Rosa.

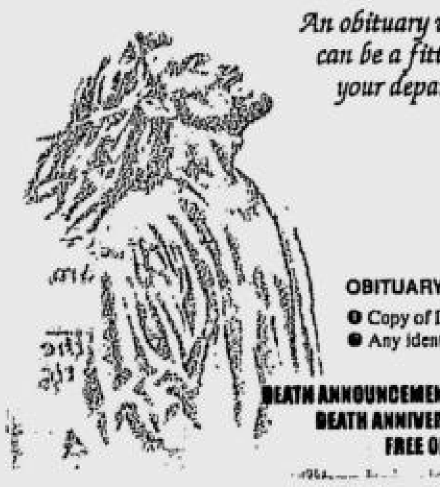
Rosario "Charito" Pancho-Ajero

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on May 11, 2005 at the age of 75.

She shall be missed by her **Husband**, Edilberto; and **Children** *Mila* (†) & Atty. Ramon A. Felipe IV; Thelma & Engr. Nelson Acuña, Teddy & Edith Gonzales; Dr. Raul & Winnie Coching; and Noel; **Grandchildren**, Ramon A. Felipe V & Paula Leynes; Julius A. Felipe & "Lovely" Bautista; Milo A. Felipe & "Iyad" Palisoc; Amanda A. Felipe; and *Xavier A. Felipe* (†); Maria Celeste A. Acuña; Nelson A. Acuña II; and Teddy G. Ajero, Jr.; Great-grandchildren, brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces, brothers- & sisters-in-law.

Her remains lie in state at their ancestral home at 74 J.B. Alegre St., Old Albay, Legazpi City.

Interment will be *tentatively* on Wednesday, May 25, 2005 at the Bicol Memorial Park, Bgy. Bogtong, Legazpi City.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...for it is in dying
that we are born
to eternal life.
– St. Francis' Prayer

JOSE SANTOS BALAJADIA

February 5, 1928 - May 13, 2005
City of Pasig and Morong, Rizal
UP Law Class '55

Former Associate Justice, Sandiganbayan
Former IBP Vice-President, Rizal Chapter, 1973-1975
Former IBP President, Rizal Chapter, 1975-1977
Former Delegate to the House of Delegates, 1973-1979
Incorporator, MABINI

His beloved wife: **Ma. Dolores Lavides-Balajadia**;
His loving children: **Joel & Grace, Anna & Joel, Marion & Vic, Maricel & Bob, Mel, Jan & Zel**, and **Mariza**;
His cherished granchildren: **Meg, Tippy, Raffy, Jayvee, Nikki, Gia, Janie**, and **Jozie**;
His brother **Edgardo** and wife **Nelda**, and his sister **Teodulita** and husband **Benjamin**;

all his nephews and nieces request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS, GUADALUPE, MAKATI CITY.

Interment to be announced later.

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DON BOSCO CONDO 2BR 2TB parking fully renovated 8438486/09178209434

HAMPTONS PLACE RFO 2007 Global City P2.4 - P6.7M 0917-5213838

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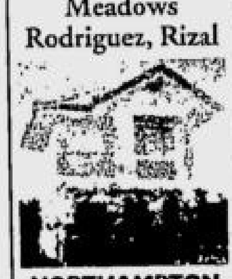

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3 BR 2 TB W/ BATH TUB & CARPORT
LOTS as low as P9T/Mo
H & L as low as P13T/Mo
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www.hdc-realestate.com

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

FOR SALE 1BR CONDO W/ PKG 31.5SQ.M BANGKAL 1.2M CONTACT ANTONIO GUMBA 255-1355 OR 09163248404

IST CLS-CONDO Across D'Fort nr Makati 10% DP Move-In 3 yrs 0% interest Mark 0921-8165150

MAKATI/MLA. CONDO SALE /RENT 0920-2403601

MKT NR AYALA BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/2 1/2tb/grge P3.720M up 8903461 loc 34

Mktl condo RFO 09212015989

Oriental Gardens Makati 45.5m² 2.7&up Roselyn 0920-3843962

READY 4 OCCUPANCY CONDO RENT 2 OWN 2-4BR P12T/mo. 09177469270 / 09152728898

RENT 2 OWN 2BR P14T RFO 0921-5093620, 0928-2473887

MANILA

2.5M Sta Mesa NICE 5635549

BAY GARDEN ROXAS BLVD 1,2,3BR 0920-9602940 RFO

MANDALUYONG

8Wack' Condo 3BR Penthse 209m² 16M 6611058 0917-8961717

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

PARANAQUE

Chateau De Bay Condo 176m² incl carpark fully furn P35T rent P4M sale neg 0921-5799450 Aileen

PASIG

Luxurious Great Loc. Ortigas Ctr 941-5641/0927-3925928

VV Mansions FA132 2BR 3tb 2Pkg 4.5M Neg 0920-9204230

QUEZON CITY

2stry Bnw 3BR3TB 2CG 4.9 to 5.3M neg 159 Sct. Limbaga Ext. 4388754 09228530530

3BR CONDO 2BATHRM COR. EDSA/TUAZON 2.2M W/ PRKG CALL 09178141972

ALPHA VICTORIA NEW MLA LA116 FA236 8M 0917-5213838

Cubao P1.5M Terms 9126976

EASTWOOD 3BR 3.8M AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY Panoramic View Pool 77m² 0918-4845443

ROMAROSA Twnhse 60m² 2BR2TB w/ grge P1.9M Bk of Puregold Cmonwealth Ave Raul 9392681 / 09208390586

OTHER AREAS

BNEW TWNHSE 7Km from Baguio, Pvt Subd., 24Hr Scty. FA90m² P1.2M 0917-8924959

Boracay Condotel 3.8M EARN P520T/Yr. ROI 5Yrs. P75T/mo. or 1Yr. No Interest Fully Furnished 0917-8169849

TAGUIG

D' FORT 307 FA REGENT TOWER 29 FLR. VIEW FULLY FURNISH 4BDRM 5BA www.MetroManila.info 09178550566/8162021

PROVINCIAL

Tagaytay 3.5M (w/club share) Newly Renovated 0927-5222683

APARTMENT

MANILA

2BR 2TB UP/DN Lacson 8425280

LOT

KALOOCAN

Rainbow Village 5 LA 216m² P3,473/m² Vic 8903461 loc 25

MAKATI

2965 sq.mtr Vacant Lot for Sale Pililla St., Makati . Tel.# 8222098

FORT BONIFACIO P5,000 MO/1 YR ONLY US MEMORIAL CONCEPT 8866472 09209220174

PARANAQUE

100,200m². Financing Avail. nr Rodriguez St. Moonwalk 09206540954

ANEX 31 B.L.S. BLK. 18 T8433192

PASIG

METROVILLE SUBD LA 333m² P4,054/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

VICTORIA PLACE 267SQM COR LOT 0917-3268377

QUEZON CITY

BLUE RIDGE-A Hillside Drive 805sqm 15T/sqm Net DBO • T# 372-5247 Atty. CIP

Dona Carmen Subd 114sm P590TH CP0917-5258034

LAGRO 682m² w/ old hse nr main road 09192123441

LOT FOR SALE PARKWAY Q.C. 300SQM #7337767/69/73

OTHER AREAS

TOWN & COUNTRY HILLS LA240m² P3,125/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

Q.C. Office Space for RENT

AVAILABLE AREAS: 182 SQ.M. (9th & 11th)
620 SQ.M. (6th, 7th, 9th & 11th)

Also available for long term lease, 5-storey unfinished building beside Hi-top Supermarket along Quezon Ave. near EDSA.

Triumph Building
1610 Quezon Ave., Quezon City
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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

OTHER PROVINCIAL

RUSH! P40.00 PER m² Res'l. 22.8 Has Sto. Domingo, Sual Pangasinan w/12,000 Eucalyptus Trees w/ Spring H2O CALL: MELBA 046-8900400 02-8451290 / 09204338783

RUSH! P600.00 PER m² Res'l. BOLAOEN, SUAL, Pangasinan 18.4 Has w/ Improvements Conc. Road / H2O Lines w/ H2O Tank / Underground Electrical w/ Perimeter Fence & others Call Melba 046-8900400 / 09204338783 02-8451290

BATANGAS

RANCHO VISTA SUBD LA613m2 P2,284/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000m² P165/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

CAVITE

DON BOSCO EXEC HTS LA128m2 P2,900/m2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

PARKPLACE SUBD LA120m² P5,750/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

PARKPLACE SUBD LA149.30m² P6,028/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

ST. CHARBEL DASMA nr SM 371m² P2,650/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

LAGUNA

192&271m². Adj. Financing Avail. Southpeak1, San Pedro 09206540954

Jubilation West Mamplasan LA176sqm 500K + assume balance Call Jona 0917-8997547

SOUTH PEAK P5,000/m2 LA240m2 Vic 8903461 loc 25/27

PROVINCIAL

ZAMBALES Hi-way 5648 P2M 09206158181 RUSH

OFFICE SPACE

GlobeTel Plaza 44.74sm P1.4M CP0917-5258034

MEMORIAL LOT

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·HIMLAYANG PILIPINO· Mausoleum Capacity 12full Interment;14bone Interment 1.7M neg Call 426-4252

FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000m² P165/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

MANILA

ESCOLTA TWIN TOWERS BRAND NEW SWIMMING POOL PENTHOUSE LARGE VIEWING DECK 4 CORNERS VIEW 4BRS 280SQMS 09277046463

HOUSE

MANILA

40 sq m unit Burgundy fronting DLSU, Taft 0920 9603724

QUEZON CITY

LA240m² 2-stry Hse 2TB 3BR Proj 8 QC P35T 09162399045

CAVITE

GPARKPLACE 09194853180

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1BR FLAT ASIA TWR FULLY FURN. P30K/MO. CONTACT JEAN 633-3039

1BR fully-furnished 25T Bnew Condo near Ayala 4108395 / 0919-8504468

2BR FF CONDO Asia Tower Nr Greenbelt call jproxas 6584824

GRENBELT 1 CONDO 9270515

NEW STUDIO / Coml / 2BR 6.5Tup 1672 Dian St. Mkti 843-9418•0918 9390355 Rose

MARIKINA

Bnew 2sty 2BR w/covered grge Tierra Vista Subd. 9480309

PARANAQUE

WESTMONT-SUCAT 1BR & PRKG 09172190234

QUEZON CITY

2sty 2CG 3BR 3TB Maidsrm secured nr ABS-CBN TMorato 72G Sct Rallos 09223261762

BRAND NEW 3BR maids rm 3TB 116sqm 1st St. cor. #8 Gilmore Ave. New Mla. QC 28K Violy/Tintin 5277616

Condo 1BR PYP Mansion P10th fully furnish 36.63m² Call Erwin or Donna 7248147 7232498 office hours only

La Chesca Heights cor. Banlat Rd TSora loc. Vis & Min Ave U /P 2BR 2TB sec guard cport w /tel P10T/mo Novi 09186576466

NICE CONDO: 3BR, 3TB Maids Room w/TB, Secured 913-7267 • 913-7270 -Roy

APARTMENT

KALOOCAN

EDSA CALOOCAN 3FLRS COML W/BODEGA 3612663 3610652

MAKATI

2BR 1TB TBL GRGE STRNG H20 8244115 09153202799

7030 D. WILSON ST MKT NR MKT MED (0917)5405281

BSIDE SAN MIG VILL 1BR 1TB PARK FUR P15000 UN-FUR P12 8909791 09189239349

UP & DWN 2BR 8483 TRABAHO ST. JP. RIZAL 8T T8706049

MANILA

1468-C KUNDIMAN SAMP 2BR W/GRGE 7492435 Liza

U /D NARRA TONDO 7T 2528553

APARTMENT

PASIG

SCREEND QUIET 2STRY 2BR T8354244 PREFRZ WO KIDS 4 SN CLEMENTE KAPITOLYO.

QUEZON CITY

CUBAO 2BR@7.5TH 9124284

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   Alabang-Zapote Rd. Las Piñas
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   Bauan, Batangas
4. RESIDENTIAL HOUSE
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   Batulao St., Ayala Alabang Village

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BEDSPACE / RM4RENT U.N. AVE. TEL 5254488

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96 VTI a/t 285 09178983587

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8,800Kms Orig-1st Owner
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Pajero Surf Terrano Prado RVR Largo Serena Delica Town-lite Ace Space Gear Elf Canter Suzuki Finance T-In 9120647; 09178342020

MITSUBISHI

'98 LANCER GLXI AUTH GOOD COND. SEE TO APPRECIATE TEL#8182182,8180782/89

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Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
A Global Corporation with a Global Mindset and a Filipino Heart

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
ITB No.: 04-31-2005

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) is inviting all interested bidders in its forthcoming public bidding for the project stated hereunder:

Name of Project	: One (1) lot Janitorial Service – CF-Davao
Brief Project Description	: One (1) year Janitorial Service Contract Total Floor Area: 5,753.02 square meters Required Personnel : 38 Janitors
Approved Budget	: Three Million Nine Hundred Eighty Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Nine & 36/100 Pesos (Php 3,989,799.36)
Source of Fund	: Internally Funded

Only contractors dully registered with PAGCOR shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Unregistered contractors must register at the Suppliers Registration & Evaluation Division (SRED), Procurement & Property Department (PPD), 2nd Floor PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita Mla., Tel. No. 526-0573 or at the Branch Procurement and Property Office, Casino Filipino Davao, Tel. No. 305-2041.

The detailed project particulars and instructions to bidders are discussed in the **Bid Documents** available for issuance **from May 12, 2005 to June 3, 2005** at the BAC Secretariat Unit, PPD-Corporate or at the Branch Procurement and Property Office, Casino Filipino Davao payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Four & 90/100 (Php 1,994.90). In order to secure the documents, bidders should present the Official Receipt issued by our Cashier to the BAC Secretary handling the project.

Pre-Bid Conference	: May 24, 2005 (4:00 p.m.)
Submission of Bids	: June 6, 2005 (2:00 p.m.)
Opening of Bids	: June 6, 2005 (2:00 p.m. onwards)

PAGCOR reserves the right to disqualify any prospective bidder if found that they have submitted falsified documents and/or information, and the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, to waive any defects or formalities found therein and the accept such bid or a part thereof as may be deemed most advantageous to PAGCOR, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

PAGCOR reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract if there is *prima facie* evidence of collusion between appropriate public officers or employees of the agency, or between the BBAC and any of the bidders, or if the collusion is between or among the bidders themselves, or between a bidder and a third party, including any act which restricts, suppresses or nullifies or tends to restrict, suppress or nullify competition, or if the BBAC is found to have failed to follow the prescribed bidding procedures, or for any justifiable and reasonable ground where the award of the contract will not redound to the benefit of the government (R.A. 9184, Sec. 41).

Pleased address all communications to the BAC Secretariat Unit, Procurement & Property Department or to the Branch Bids and Awards Committee, CF-Davao.

(Sgd) DOMINGO PABALAN JR.
Chairperson, BBAC-Davao

(PDI – May 15 & 22, 2005)

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1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

2% w/o Taking Car 7262760

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/out taking car 6567685

2% w/out taking car 5315577

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MARIKINA CITY
MAY 14 & 15, 2005
UNDER INT'L JUDGES
PROF. ZEEV TRAININ
(Israel)
MS. MIERO NOMURA
(Jpn)
STRICTLY NO ADDENDUM
SHOW SCHEDULE
Sunday May 15, 2005
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Registration & Judging of Non-Sporting & Herding Grp
12:30 PM – 5:00 PM
Registration & Judging of Working Group
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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE TEODORICO T. NERECINA HAS BEEN EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED BY HIS HEIRS AS PER DOC # 202; PAGE # 38; BOOK # 18; SERIES OF 2003 BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC ATTY. GERLO C. CACATIAN OF MANILA
(PDI-May 15,22 & 29, 2005)

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF THE LOSS OF PETRON CORP STOCK CERTIFICATE OF DIVINA GRACIA PEREGRINO WITH STOCK NO. 00524057 AND 8,850 SHARES. SHOULD NO ONE CONTEST ON OR BEFORE 05/29/05 NEW CERTIFCATE WILL BE ISSUED.
(PDI-MAY 15, 22 & 29, 2005)

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AUCTION MADNESS GOES TO BATANGAS!!! "Presyong Fiesta sa Lipa"

May 27, 2005, Friday 1:00 p.m. Main Hall, Max's Restaurant Lipa, Pres. Laurel Highway, Sabang, Lipa City

ALBAY

Lot 1 – Comm'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA3,464sqm Lot nos. 2041-A & 2041-B Along Regidor & Lakandula Sts., Brgy. Binitayan, Daraga
Minimum Bid Price P13,163,200.00

Lot 2 – Res'l. Lot LA 500 sqm
Lot 2559-H-4, Brgy. San Lorenzo, Tabaco City
Minimum Bid Price P 212,500.00

Lot 3 – Comm'l. Lot
LA17,859sqm Lot Nos.1338-A-1 to A-4 & 1340 Peñaranda Ext., Brgy. Bonot, Port District, Legaspi City
Minimum Bid Price P23,543,775.00

BATANGAS

Lot 4 – Res'l. Lot LA 540 sqm
Lot 4 Malvar St. Poblacion, Lipa City
Minimum Bid Price P 2,025,000.00

Lot 5 – Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 311 sqm, FA 240 sqm
North side of Taal Cuenca National Road, Bgy. San Jose, Alitaglag
Minimum Bid Price P 684,200.00

Lot 6 – Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 664sqm, FA 121sqm
Hernandez St, Brgy. II,Mataas na Kahoy
Minimum Bid Price P 2,168,657.00

Lot 7 WITHDRAWN
Minimum Bid Price P 2,631,340.00

Lot 8 - Res'l. Lot LA 150 sqm
L7 Victomar Subd, Brgy. 4, Poblacion, Mataas na Kahoy
Minimum Bid Price P 357,000.00

Lot 9-Agricultural Lot LA50,000sqm
Bo. Pinagkawitan, Lipa City
Minimum Bid Price P11,250,000.00

Res'l. Lots, Burgos St. Lipa Royale Subd, Brgy. Inosluban, Lipa City
Lot 10 – L11 Blk5 LA 150 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 446,250.00
Lot 11 – L12 Blk5 LA 150 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 446,250.00
Lot 12 – L13 Blk5 LA 150 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 446,250.00
Lot 13 – L21 Blk5 LA 265 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 788,375.00
Lot 14 – L78 Blk5 LA 303 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 901,425.00

Lot 15 - Industrial Lot LA76,014sqm
Lot 14585 Brgy. Road, Brgy.Talisay (North), Lipa City
Minimum Bid Price P 7,601,400.00

Lot 16 WITHDRAWN sqm
City
Minimum Bid Price P 5,525,850.00

Lot 17 – Res'l. Lot LA 288 sqm
L24 Blk7Anastacia St, Villa Rosa Subd,BrgyAntipolo del Norte,LipaCity
Minimum Bid Price P 604,800.00

Res'l. Lots, Tierra Vista Subd, Brgy. Sabang, Lipa City
Lot 18 – L6 Blk22 LA 227.82 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 553,850.00
Lot 19 – L15 Blk22 LA 157.50 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 346,500.00
Lot 20 – L17 Blk22 LA 150.00 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 330,000.00
Lot 21 – L7 Blk28 LA 162.41 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 357,302.00
Lot 22 – L9 Blk28 LA 167.37 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 368,214.00
Lot 23 – L4 Blk27 LA 155.40 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 341,880.00
Lot 24 – L5 Blk27 LA 150.00 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 330,000.00

BATANGAS

Res'l. Lots, Tierra Vista Subd, Brgy. Sabang, Lipa City
Lot 25 – L6 Blk27 LA 150.00 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 330,000.00
Lot 26 – L7 Blk27 LA 150.00 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 330,000.00
Lot 27 – L9 Blk27 LA 150.00 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 330,000.00

Lot 28 - Res'l. Lot LA 271 sqm
Lot7 East side of existing road Bo. Sta. Rita, Batangas City
Minimum Bid Price P 460,700.00

Res'l Lots, Rancho Vista Subd, Brgy. Santiago, Santo Tomas
Lot 29 - L19 Blk1 LA 667 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,820,700.00
Lot 30 - L3 Blk5 LA1,011sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 2,123,100.00
Lot 31 - L18 Blk5 LA 725 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,522,500.00
Lot 32 – L44 Blk5 LA 469 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,055,250.00

Res'l. Lots, Las Villas de Aguila,Brgy. Bagong Sikat, Poblacion, Lemery
Lot 33 – L8 Blk3 LA 175 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 402,500.00
Lot 34 – L18 Blk3 LA 175 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 402,500.00
Lot 35 – L21 Blk3 LA 175 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 402,500.00
Lot 36 – L22 Blk3 LA 175 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 402,500.00
Lot 37 – L24 Blk3 LA 175 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 402,500.00
Lot 38 – L28 Blk6 LA 180 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 432,000.00

Lot 39 - Res'l./Comm'l Lot
LA 5,000 sqm
Lot A-4 Tagaytay-Nasugbu road, Brgy. Niyugan, Laurel, Batangas
Minimum Bid Price P 7,000,000.00

CAMARINES SUR

Res'l. Lots, Monte Cielo de Naga Ph2, Brgy. Del Rosario, Naga City
Lot 40 – L31 Blk4 LA 216 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 427,680.00
Lot 41 – L2 Blk1 LA 204 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 459,000.00
Lot 42 – L3 Blk1 LA 398 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 788,040.00
Lot 43 – L4 Blk1 LA 358 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 708,840.00
Lot 44 – L7 Blk1 LA 204 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 403,920.00

Lot 45-Res'l/Comm'l Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 211sqm
Lot 745-C SE side of M. Roxas St., Bo. San Pascual, Buhi
Minimum Bid Price P 2,110,000.00

CAVITE

Res'l.Lots, Tagaytay Royale Subd Ph2-A, Brgy. Matabac, Sinaliw & Kaytitinga, Alfonso
Lot 46 – L6 Blk14 LA 264 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 739,200.00
Lot 47 – L7 Blk14 LA 293 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 820,400.00

LAGUNA

Res'l. Lots, Richwood Park Vill., Brgy. San Francisco, San Pablo City
Lot 48 – L42 Blk9 LA 75 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 112,500.00
Lot 49 – L43 Blk9 LA 75 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 112,500.00
Lot 50 – L44 Blk9 LA 75 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 112,500.00
Lot 51 – L46 Blk9 LA 75 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 112,500.00
Lot 52 – L52 Blk9 LA 75 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 112,500.00

LAGUNA

Res'l. Lots, Richwood Park Vill., Brgy. San Francisco, San Pablo City
Lot 53 – L53 Blk9 LA 75 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 112,500.00
Lot 54 – L54 Blk9 LA 75 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 112,500.00
Lot 55 – L55 Blk9 LA 75 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 112,500.00
Lot 56 – L41 Blk9 LA 75 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 112,500.00
Lot 57 – L59 Blk9 LA 75 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 112,500.00
Lot 58 – L60 Blk9 LA 75 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 112,500.00

Lot 59 -Agricultural Lot LA 5,852sqm
Lot 15008, Along Brgy. Road of San Nicolas,Brgy.San Nicolas,SanPabloCity
Minimum Bid Price P 5,637,891.00

Lot 60 – Comm'l. Lot LA 4,000sqm
Brgy. San Gabriel, San Pablo City
Minimum Bid Price P 18,451,100.00

Lot 61 – Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA523sqm C. Brion cor Sgt DeRoma Sts,Brgy.III, Poblacion,SanPabloCity
Minimum Bid Price P 2,133,750.00

Lot 62 – Agri. Lot LA19,820sqm
Lot 3 Along Brgy. Road, San Marcos, San Pablo City
Minimum Bid Price P 1,858,125.00

Lot 63-Res'l/ Agri. Lot LA47,096sqm
Lot 14922, 14924, 14921-C, 14921-B, Along Bo. Road, Brgy. San Nicolas & San Crispin, San Pablo City
Minimum Bid Price P 10,361,120.00

Res'l. Lots, Makiling Heights Resort Subd, Brgy. Dampalit, Los Baños
Lot 64 – L30 Blk5 LA 181 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 425,350.00
Lot 65 – L32 Blk5 LA 242 sqm
Mini8um Bid Price P 580,500.00
Lot 66 – L9 Blk6 LA 202 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 474,700.00
Lot 67 – L10 Blk6 LA 189 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 444,150.00
Lot 68 – L63 Blk8 LA 380 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 893,000.00

Res'l. Lots, Laguna Hills, Brgy. Bucal, Calamba
Lot 69 – L50 Blk14 LA 218 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 621,300.00
Lot 70 – L51 Blk14 LA 218 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 621,300.00
Lot 71 – L78 Blk14 LA 452 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,491,600.00
Lot 72 – L79 Blk14 LA 294 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 882,000.00
Lot 73 – L83 Blk14 LA 446 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,338,000.00

Lot 74–Industrial/Res'l. Lot w/Imprvmnt
LA 20,000 sqm
Brgy. Sto Tomas, Calauan
Minimum Bid Price P 11,131,920.00

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Lot 75 – Res'l. Lots LA 997 sqm
L4&5 Blk7San Antonio St, Lourdes Subd, Brgy. Isabang, Lucena City
Minimum Bid Price P 1,869,375.00

Lot 76-Res'l/ Industrial Lot
LA 1,249 sqm L2-4 Blk1 Dincor Fishing Cmpd., De Mesa Rd, Brgy. Dalahican, Lucena City
Minimum Bid Price P 1,061,650.00

Lot 77 - Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 253sqm, FA 220sqm
#6 Diamond St., Pleasantville Subd, Ilayang Iyam, Lucena City
Minimum Bid Price P 1,822,339.00

Lot 78 – Res'l Lot LA 551 sqm
L32-33 A. BonifacioSt,Poblacion,Pitogo
Minimum Bid Price P 125,188.00

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Lot 79 - Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 3,642sqm, FA 104 sqm
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Lot 81 WITHDRAWN Bldg., Burg gon
Minimum Bid Price P 8,099,036.00

Lot 82 - Comm'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 2,752 sqm Lot 5-D Luna St., Brgy. Una Candol, Gubat
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TAGAYTAY

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Lot 83 – L9 Blk 1 LA 779 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 4,089,750.00
Lot 84 - L11 Blk 1 LA 952 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 4,998,000.00
Lot 85 – L13 Blk 1 LA 838 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 4,399,500.00

Lot 86 – Res'l/ Comm'l. Lot
LA 20,034 sqm
Lot 2-E, Interior Lot thru perpetual right of way, Brgy. Tolentino
Minimum Bid Price P 27,045,900.00

Lot 87 – Res'l. Lot LA 294 sqm
Lot 1 Blk 22 Buenavista Hills Subdivision, Phase I, Brgy. Tolentino
Minimum Bid Price P 846,900.00

Res'l. Lots, Tropical Green Subd., Brgy. Patutong Malaki
Lot 88 – L6 Blk 5 LA 246 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 934,800.00
Lot 89 – L5 Blk 8-A LA 254 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 965,200.00
Lot 90 – L7 Blk 9 LA 252 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 957,600.00
Lot 91 – L9 Blk 9 LA 252 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 957,600.00
Lot 92 – L13 Blk 9 LA 270 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,026,000.00

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Lot 93 –Res'l. Condo. FA 186 sqm
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Minimum Bid Price P 7,224,000.00

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LA 77 sqm, FA 97.50 sqm
Rd Lot 649-C-4-A-2 Towerville Homes Brgy. Culiat (near UP)
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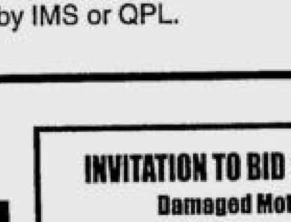

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Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

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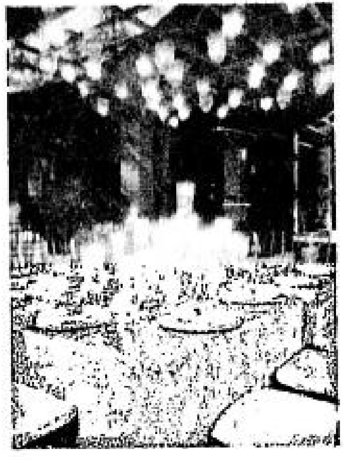


WEDDING candles all a-glow /H4

A heritage of chow

The National Heritage Month gets a delicious celebration with a festival focusing on food and history

Text by Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Ryan Lim

THE PROCLAMATION of the first Philippine Constitutional Republic on Jan. 23, 1899 in Malolos, Bulacan was more than enough reason for feasting, says Dez Bautista, book author, theater and film director and production designer.

"The island that used to be run by 'savages' declared itself as the first nation . . . to achieve freedom in all of Asia. (It was) championed before the world as the region's first democracy with its own government, its own flag and its own national anthem," Bautista says.

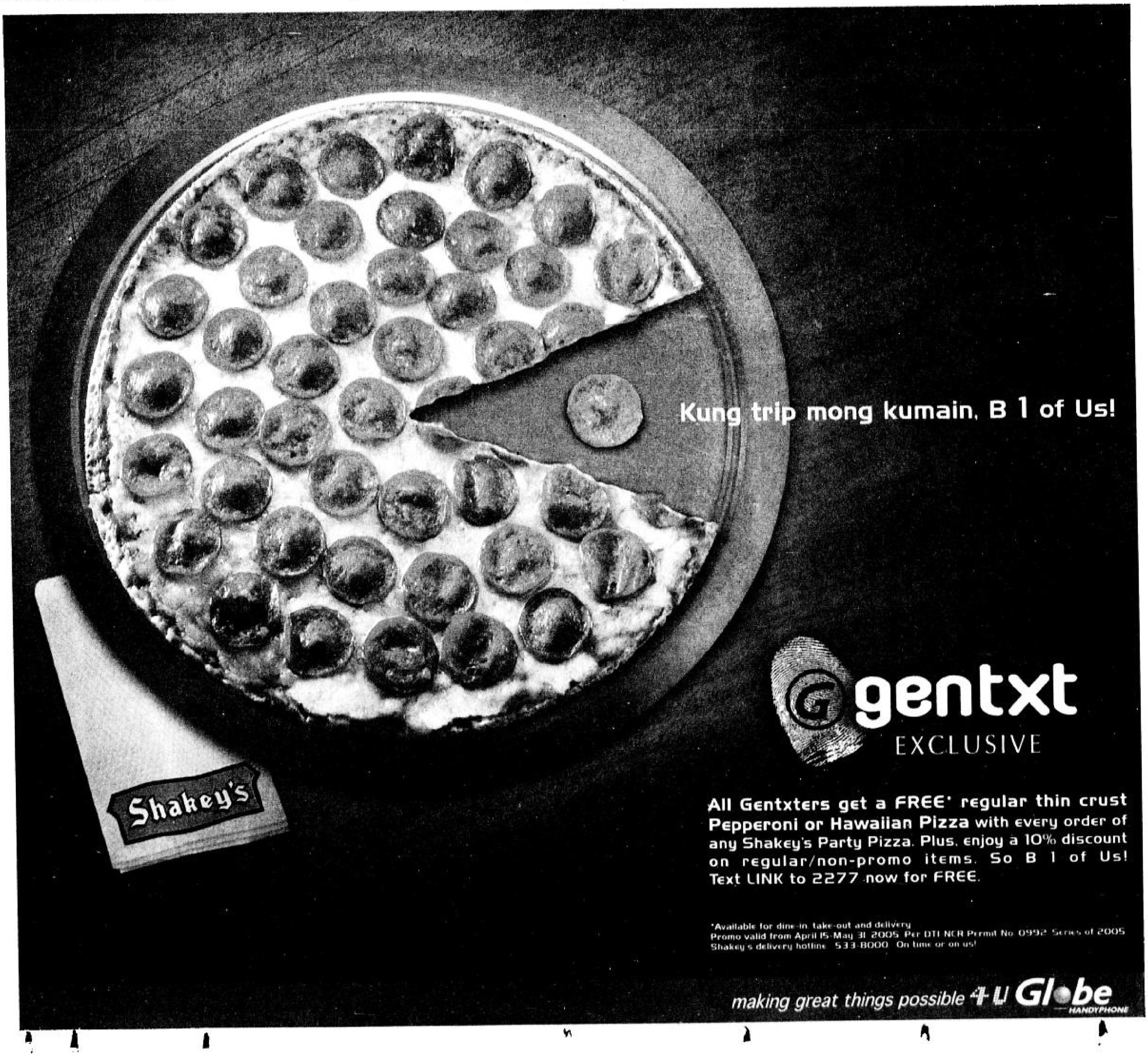
As a way of remembering such historic moment, May has been declared as Filipino Heritage Month. In observance of the celebration, the Hotel Inter-Continental, Manila Peninsula and Mandarin Oriental Manila are holding food festivals.

"The opening salvo of Filipino Heritage Month was held last year, but it was not able to showcase a heritage cuisine festival," says Bautista, who did last year's production design for the Department of Tourism and now for Mandarin Oriental Manila. "The barrio fiesta theme is already passé so I thought of recreating different feasts based on Philippine history which will be featured in 'Piging.'"

"Piging: A Heritage of Cuisine," which will

A HERITAGE/ C2

MILA Enriquez and Dez Bautista lays out a historic feast at Mandarin Oriental.



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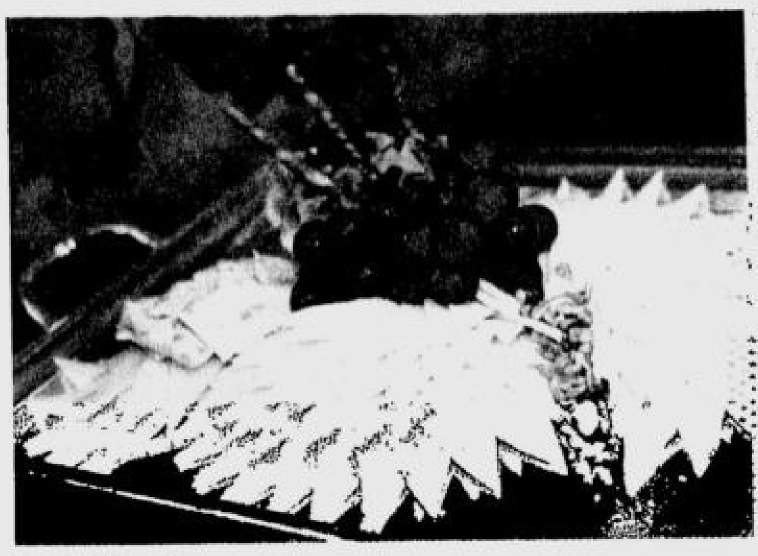
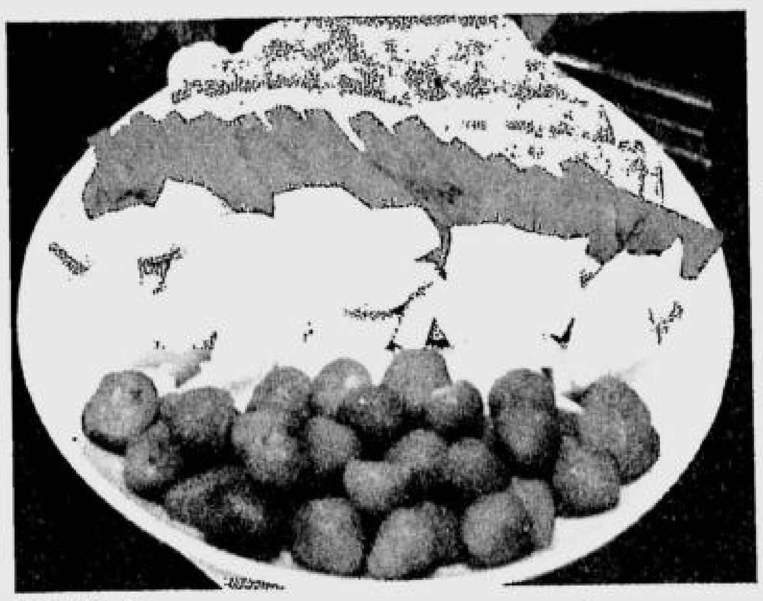


ASSORTED cheeses

OY

A heritage of chow



FRESH fruits

PROCLAMATION of the first Philippine Constitutional Republic on Jan. 23, 1899 in Malolos, Bulacan

From page C1

be held on May 23-27 at the Captain's Bar of Mandarin Oriental Manila, is organized by the Filipino Heritage Festival, Inc., National Commission on Culture and the Arts and the Department of Tourism.

Bautista, who owns and operates Art of the Colonies, a Philippine heritage company, and Mila Enriquez, food historian and co-author of the book "Bulakeña," collaborate with Mandarin Oriental Manila in showcasing a culinary repertoire that focuses on the ilustrado banquets that were held in "Bahay na Bato" residences in the 18th century.

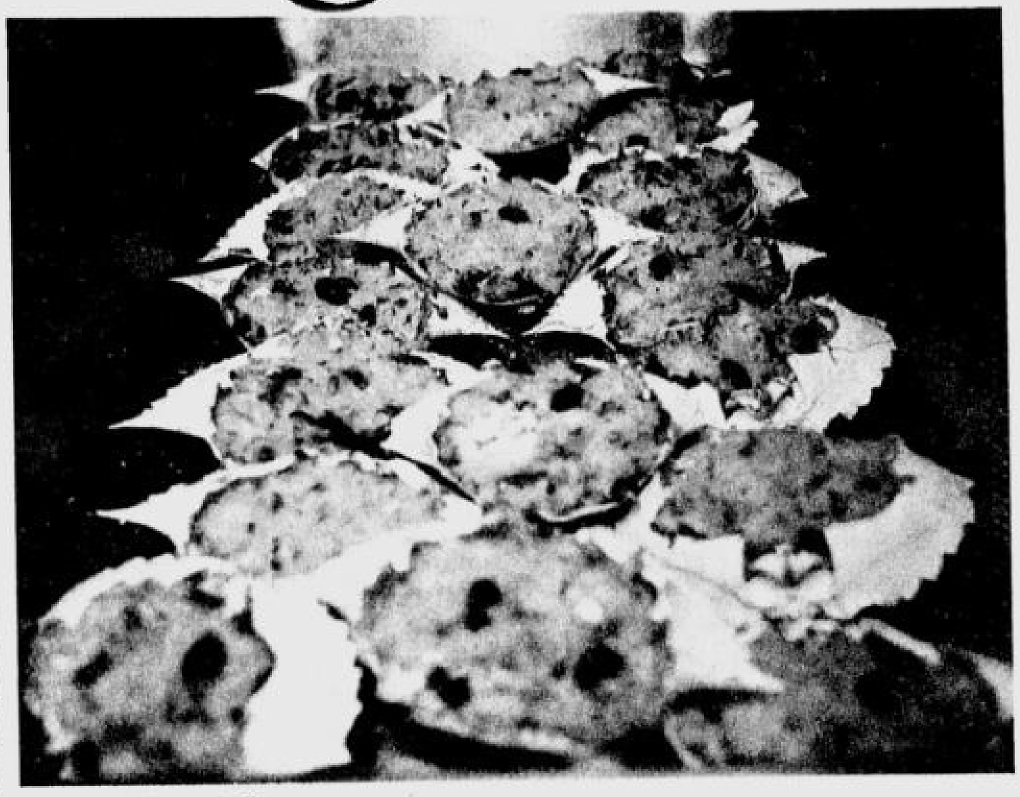
Both consultants are linked to, if not direct descendants of historic families in Bulacan. Enriquez's late husband, Jacinto, is a descendant of the aide-de-camp of General Gregorio del Pilar while Bautista is a descendant of the aide-de-camp of General Emilio Aguinaldo.

According to Bautista, the feasts made the stone mansions a venue for displaying wealth and importance. The opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 hastened the arrival to the archipelago of European glasses, plates, silverware, wines, liquor, olive oil and other condiments necessary to impress guests with the "Europeaness" of house owners.

Historic menu

With the society of the ilustrados achieving European civility, Bautista says, the menu served on the proclamation of the first Philippine Constitutional Republic was written in French.

"Researches reveal that a good portion of the menu were Bulacan dishes such as chicken giblets, *adobo*, crabmeat on shells, oysters and shrimps," Bautista says. "Baptized with French names, these dishes were served on European plates, thus urbanizing the then provincial and now famous menu."



CRABMEAT on a shell

Mandarin Oriental Manila's five-day lunch buffets feature a distinct culinary theme daily. On May 23, Banquete de la Republika presents a cuisine that was served during the inauguration of the first Philippine Constitutional Republic in Bulacan.

The menu, written in French by Pedro Paterno and friends, includes "Buttered Radish, Holland Salmon, Chicken Giblet a la Tagalle, Fillet of Fish a la Chateaubriand with green French beans, Mutton Chops a la Papillote with potatoes and Strawberry Jelly."

May 24 will focus on the Mesa de Hacienda, which dates back to the time when the port of Manila opened to foreign trade following the closing of the Galleon Trade with Mexico.

It was the time when wealth poured in from the haciendas that produced *abaca*, rope, tobacco, indigo, coffee and sugar. The center of the economic boom shifted from Intramuros to the principal towns that produced these products for export. The table of the ilustrado displayed turkey and truffles instead of *paksiw* and *sinigang*.

Thus, gastronomic offerings at the Captain's Bar include Ensaladang Tagalog, Kinilaw na Talaba, Burong Mangga, Sizzling Usa, Itik Bukid, Tinanglad na Manok and Bibingkang Malagkit.

The First Banquet, which will be featured on May 25, refers to the Spaniards' first taste of native cuisine as chronicled by Italian Antonio Pigafetta.

According to documents, Rajah Humabon tendered a feast for Magellan and his men. The feast consisted mainly of seafood that must have been served on a dulang or low table. Items on the menu to commemorate the historic feast are Kilawin Tangigue sa Gata, Prawns Kinilaw, Oysters Kinilaw, Tangigue Sinigang sa Mangga, Apahap and Daing na Lapu-Lapu.

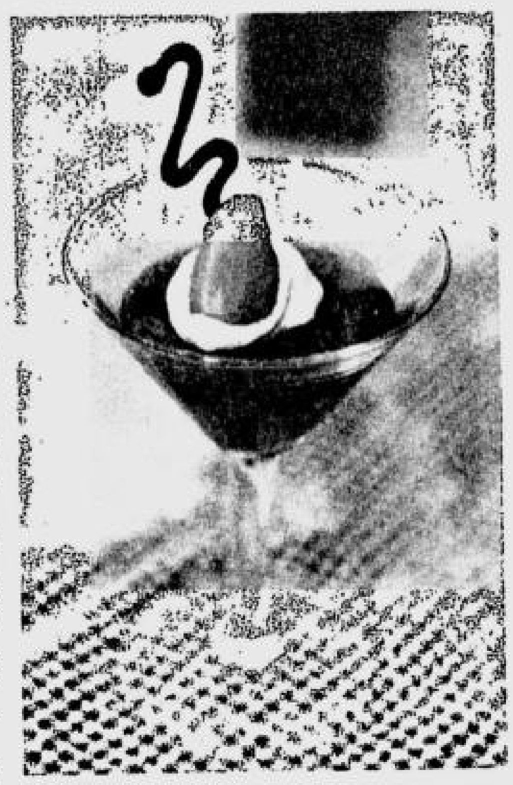
On May 26, A Filipino Table in Paris depicts dishes of Filipino origin or adaptations of "Filipino palate bred on Hispanic cooking." In Paris, such food was a balm to the homesick Indios Bravos imbibing French culture. Among the expatriates were Juan Luna, Resurreccion Hidalgo, Pedro Paterno and Isabel Tuazon. The culinary fare for this festival consists of Atchara de Manila, Calabacines with Ham and Chicharon, Arroz a la Valenciana, Paksiw de Bulacan, Carne Mechado con Jamon and Merengue.

Mesa de Lipa, to be presented on May 27, showcases the cuisine of Lipa, Batangas. For five straight years in the 19th century, Lipa became the sole supplier of coffee to Europe. Grand dinners in stone mansions gave birth to the banquet theme, "Pasasalamat sa Kape." The gustatory feast includes Prawns cooked with Champagne, Sopa de la Reina, Pastel de Pichon, Legua Sevillana, Morcon, Favo Trufado stuffed with ground pork, raw ham, egg yolks, pate and truffles and Yema.

Other activities

On the opening of "Piging: A Heritage of Cuisine," Luz Ocampo will do a demonstration on the vanishing art of making pastillas wrappers. A choir from Bulacan will render *kundiman* songs and schoolchildren will present a balagtasan.

"The campaign for culture has to be done on many fronts. Cuisine is one of the easiest and surest ways to attract attention so we thought of contextualizing food within culture, and at the same time, show our historical relationship with neighboring countries," Bautista says.



GLACES

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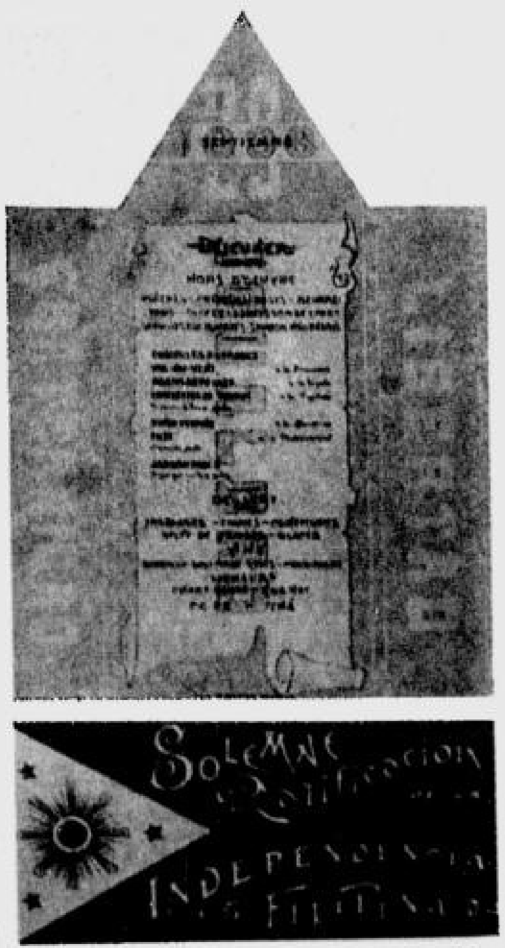

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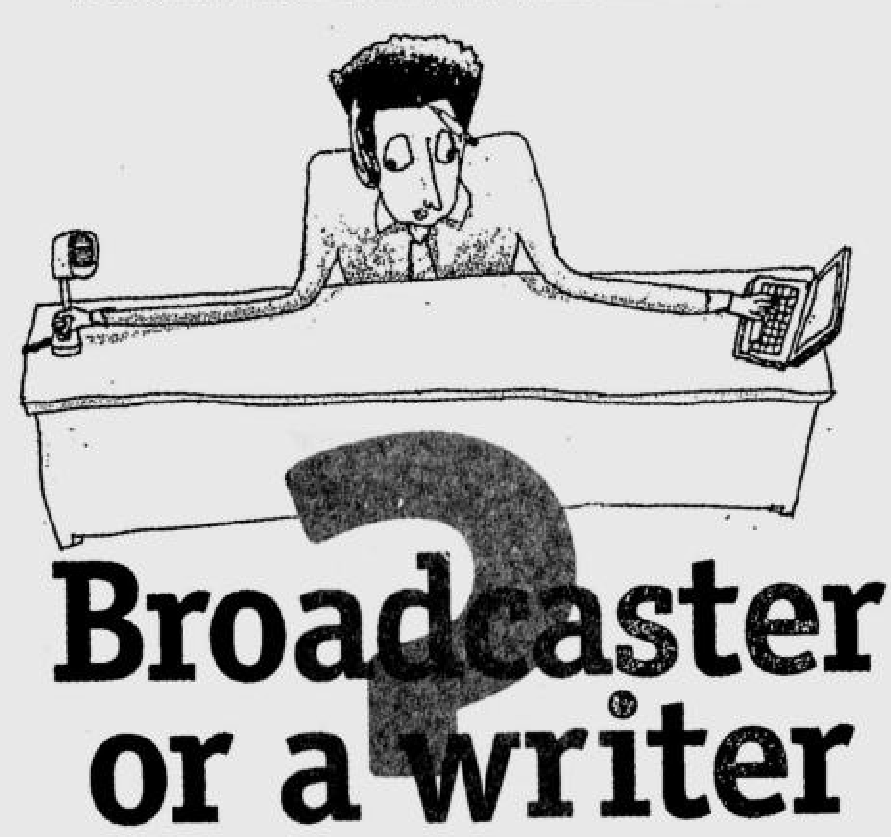
THE MENU served on the proclamation of the First Philippine Constitutional Republic was written in French by Pedro Paterno and friends.



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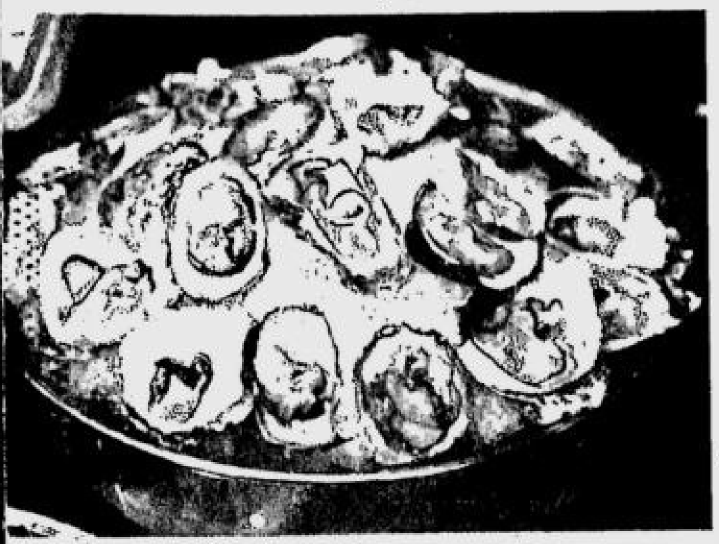

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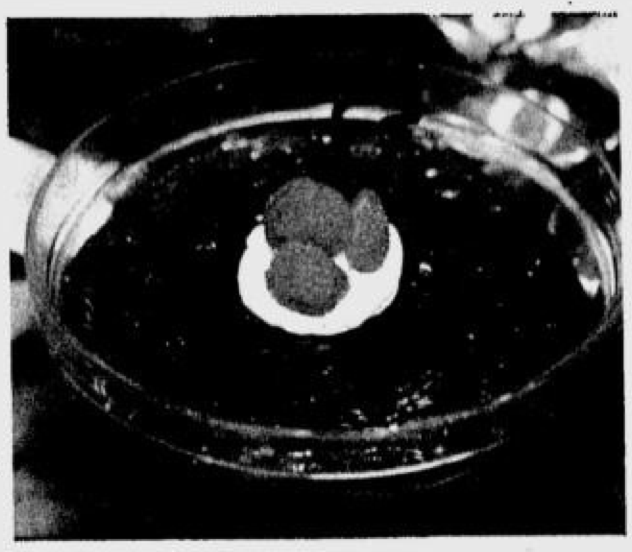

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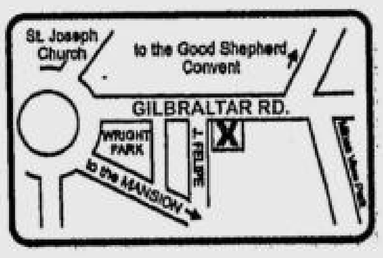

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ROYAL JELLY

IRON The Philippines suffers from iron deficiency, often blamed as a contributing factor for low productivity among Filipinos. With the hectic schedules that most Filipinos keep to try to get ahead, the debilitating effects of iron deficiency almost make it impossible for them to live a full life. The normal iron level of the body is usually maintained by controlling the amount of iron gained from food. Thus the need for **the new I-ON energy drink from Revicon** to supplement iron intake. Iron is an essential constituent of hemoglobin and other components of respiratory enzyme systems. Hemoglobin is the protein in red blood cells that carries oxygen to the body's tissues. A portion of the human body's source of iron is stored and is usually mobilized when dietary intake is inadequate. The rest becomes of the proteins in the body's tissues.

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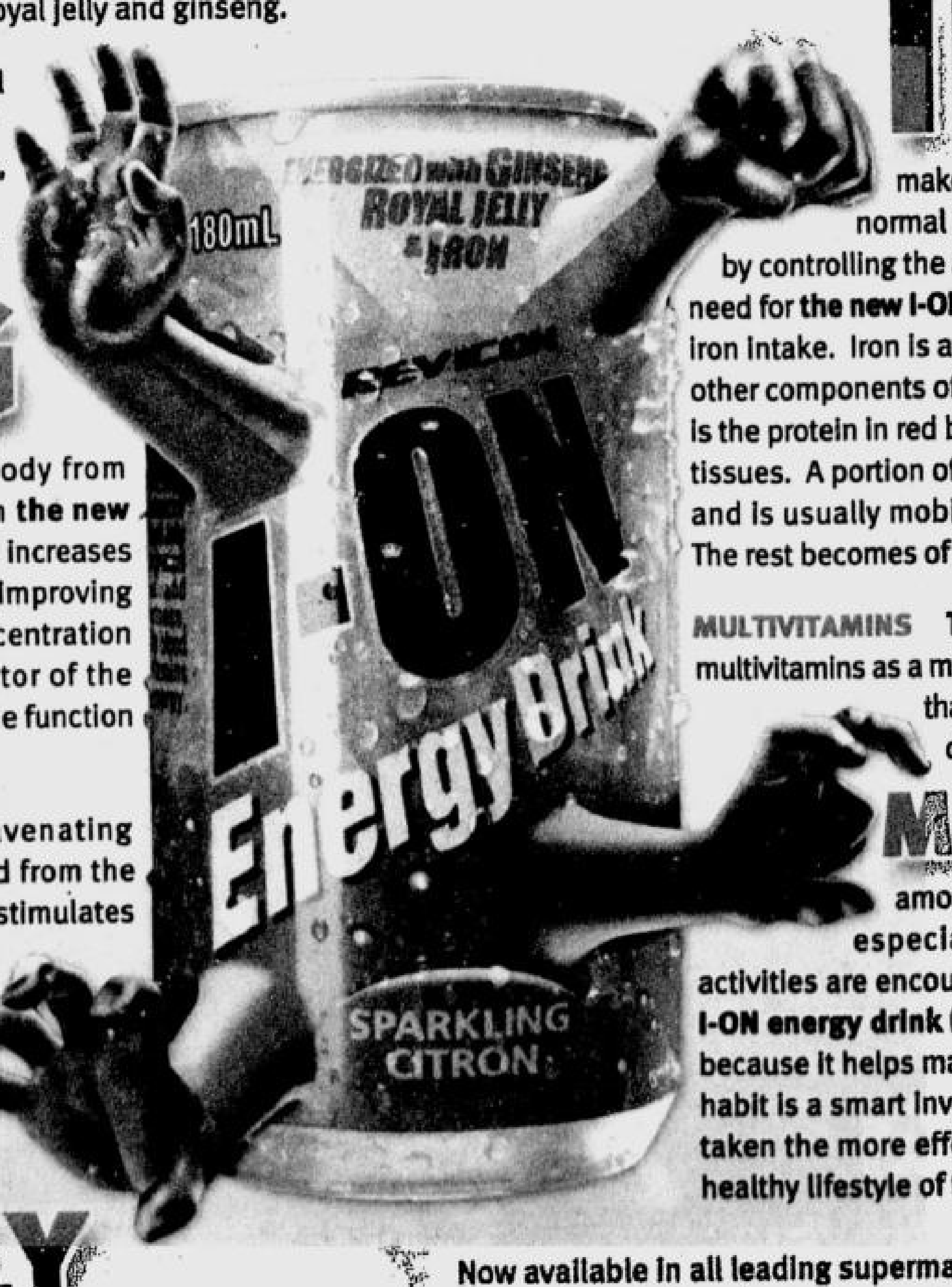

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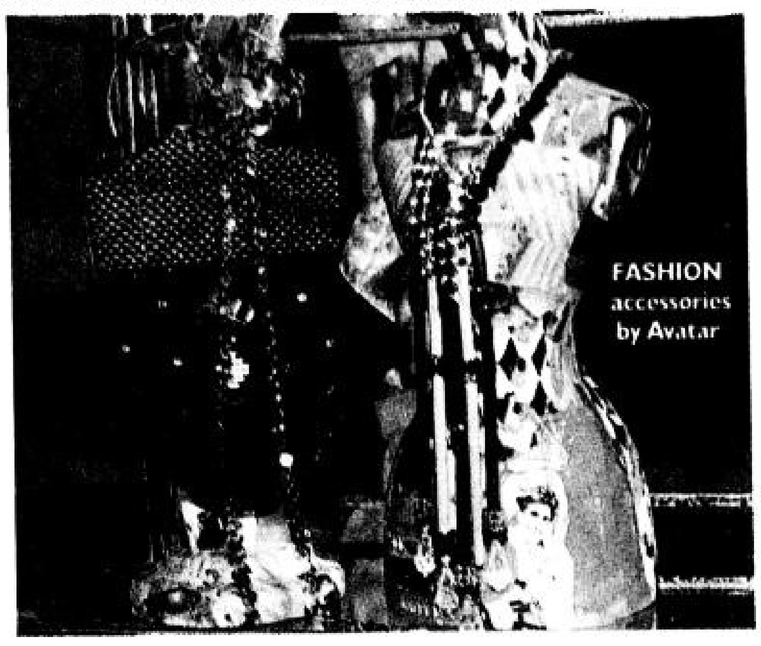
RED Monique Lhuillier original for mom Amparito

Glimpses of the Monique Lhuillier magic

Cebu's world-class heritage in design is amply showcased at the New World Hotel, which is holding an exhibit of Cebu arts and crafts



FASHION accessories by Avatar

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Betoy Johnson

FILIPINOS who were saddened that Monique Lhuillier's planned show in the Philippines last year didn't pan out can now find solace in the mini exhibit of her creations at the grand lobby of New World Renaissance Hotel in Makati City, until May 22.

Lhuillier's gowns, designed for and on loan from her mother, Cebu socialite Amparito Lhuillier, are shown alongside the best of Cebu's for-export crafts—furniture by multi-awarded designer Kenneth Cobonpue; fashion jewelry by Wharton School graduate Butch Carungay of Avatar Accessories; bags by Iris Arcenas of Ferimar Corp. and Joanna Maitland-Smith Lhuillier; and home accessories made of shagreen (stingray skin) by Cebu Intertrade Export.

The "Celebrate Cebu!" exhibit is part of the Filipino Heritage Festival, a nationwide fest marking Philippine history, culture and traditions. This is the second year the heritage month is being celebrated since President Macapagal-Arroyo declared the fiesta month of May as National Heritage Month in August 2003. The event is a joint project of the National Commission on Culture and the Arts, Department of Tourism and Filipino Heritage Festival Inc.

This year, several top hotels in the metro are taking part in the month-long celebrations via food fests showcasing the cuisines of different provinces. For its part, New World Hotel (tel. 8116888) decided to complement Cebu's culinary fiesta at its coffee shop with a showcase of world-famous Cebuano brands and products.

"Cebuanos are very talented and diligent, so this must be why they are successful," says Amparito Lhuillier.

GLIMPSES/ D2

RUCHING and handmade roses—details also employed by Monique Lhuillier in the bridal gown of Christine Baumgartner, who wed actor Kevin Costner last year

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English Sample
convivial
(kohn-viv-yal)
merry; festive; fond of feasting, drinking, and good company
The convivial atmosphere at the reunion showed how much everyone missed each other.

Spanish Sample
helado
(e-la-do)
ice cream
El helado es mi postre favorito.
Ice cream is my favorite dessert.

Tagalog Sample
Halumigmig
(ha-loo-meeg-meeg)
moisture, humidity, condensation
Tuwing umaga, parating basa ng halumigmig ang mga halaman.
Every morning, the plants are always wet with dew.

Tagalog Slang Sample
repatipaks
(re-pa-ti-paks)
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Darating ang mga repatipaks ko dito para maglaro ng online games.
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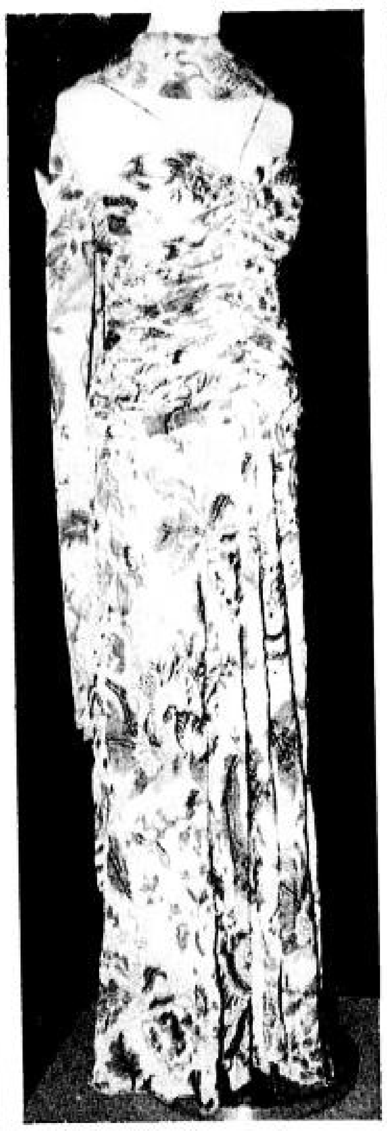
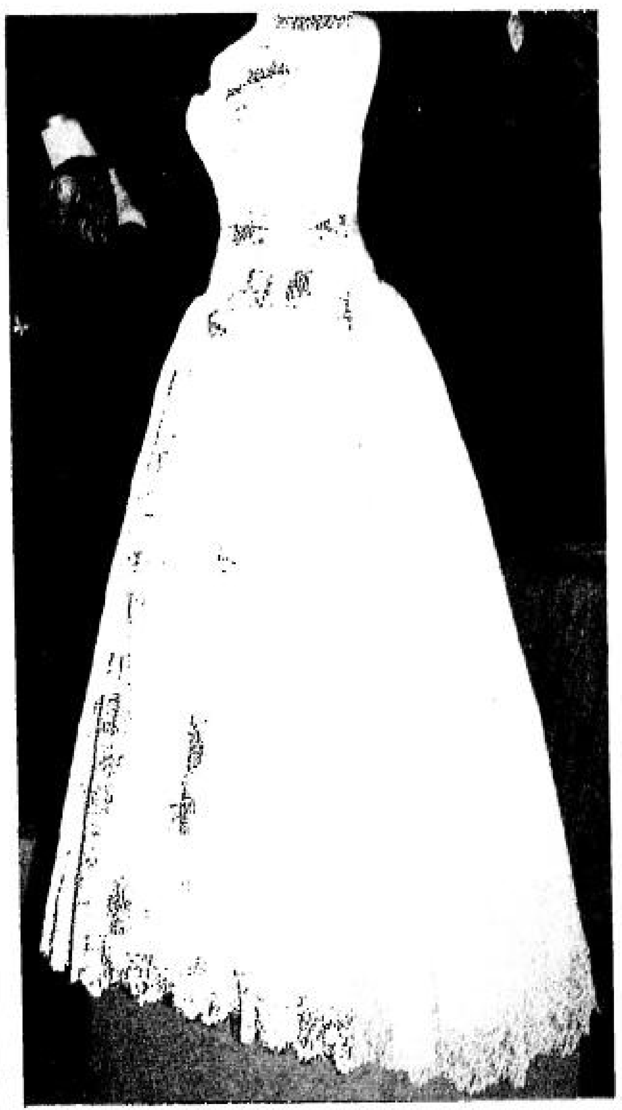


HAND-BEADED gown by Monique Lhuillier



BRIDAL gown by Monique Lhuillier, whose clients include Sarah Jessica Parker, Angelina Jolie, Jessica Simpson, Mariah Carey, Sharon Stone, among others

CEBU socialite Amparito Lhuillier in a white suit and lace top by her daughter. The black lace gown at left is also a Monique Lhuillier original, created for her mother, with a velvet ribbon belt that emphasizes the older woman's still-tiny waistline.

Glimpses of the Monique Lhuillier magic

From page D1

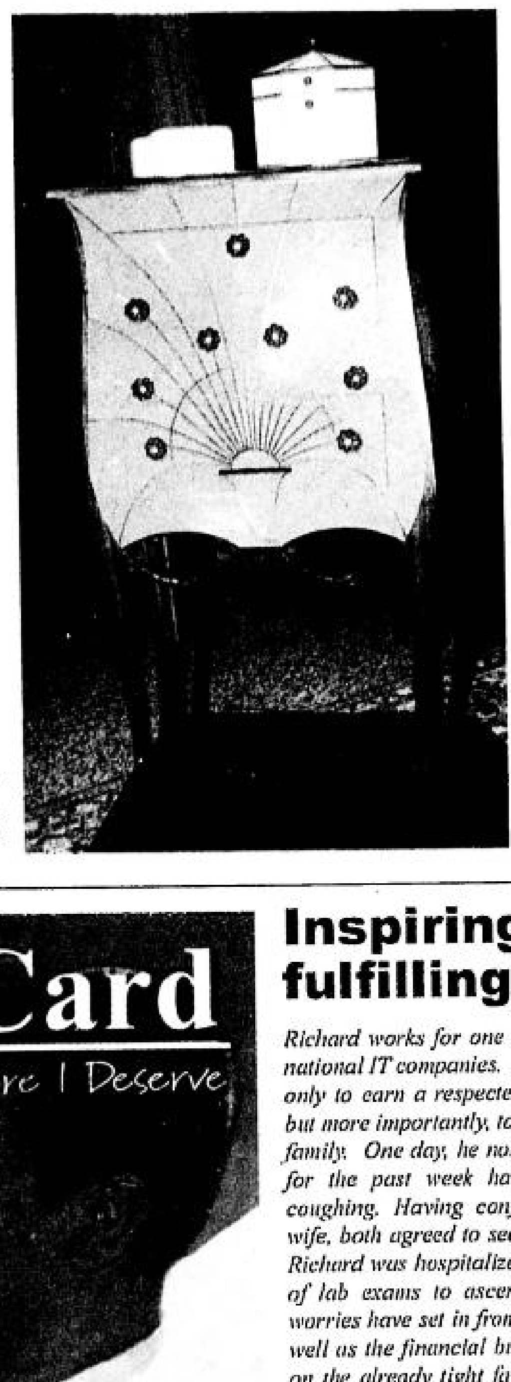
BED with woven frame by Kenneth Cobonpue of Interior Crafts of the Islands Inc.

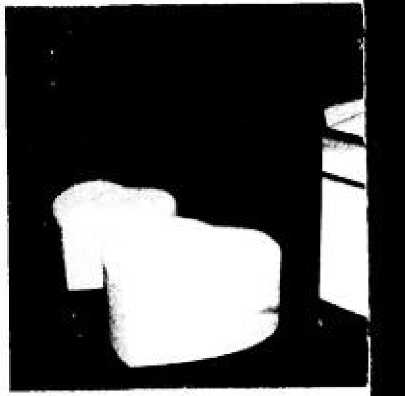
Amparito's daughter Monique is the Los Angeles designer currently favored by many of Hollywood's A-listers. She famously created the bridal gown of Britney Spears and her entourage's ensembles when the pop superstar wed last year. The 33-year-old designer was born and raised in Cebu.

Too busy

Lhuillier says her now-famous daughter is quite busy that she can't say whether plans of a Philippine show will finally push through this year. The designer is in talks with ABS-CBN Foundation to stage a show (to benefit the Bantay Bata Foundation), says the mom, but nothing is definite yet.

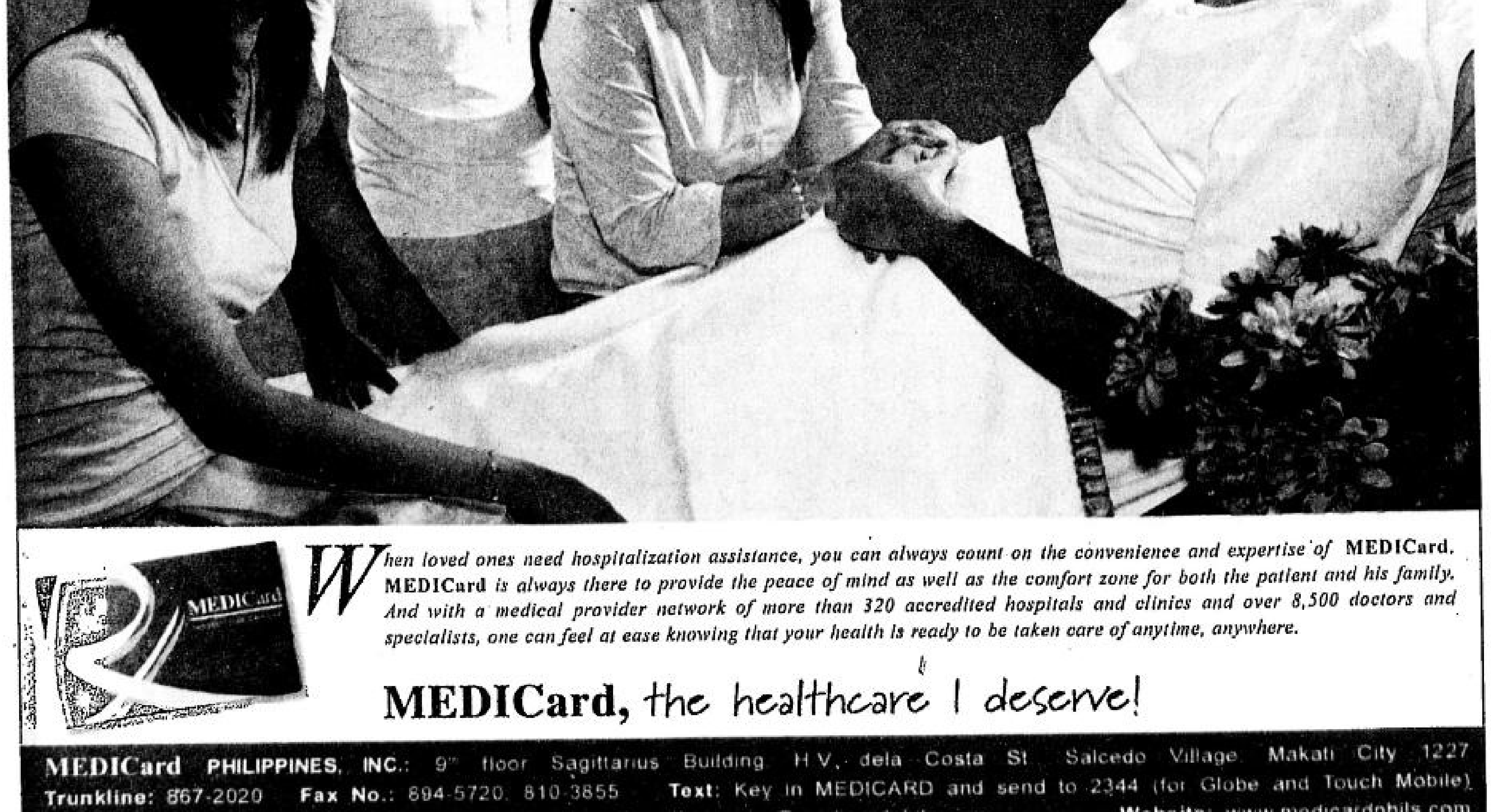
"Oh, she's too busy she can't even make clothes for me," Lhuillier says in mock dismay. She adds she has only 8-10 Monique Lhuillier pieces in her wardrobe—four of them are on display at New World. (A bridal gown, sent

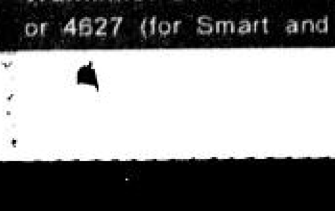




CONSOLE table (left) and home accessories made of shagreen and penshell by GA/Cebu Intertrade Export

BEADED bag by Joanna Maitland-Smith Lhuillier





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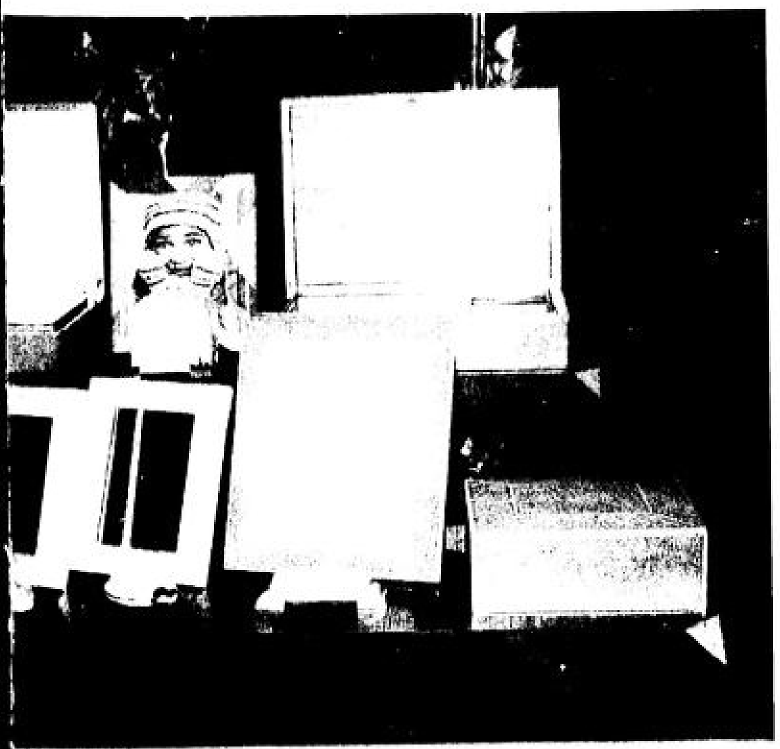
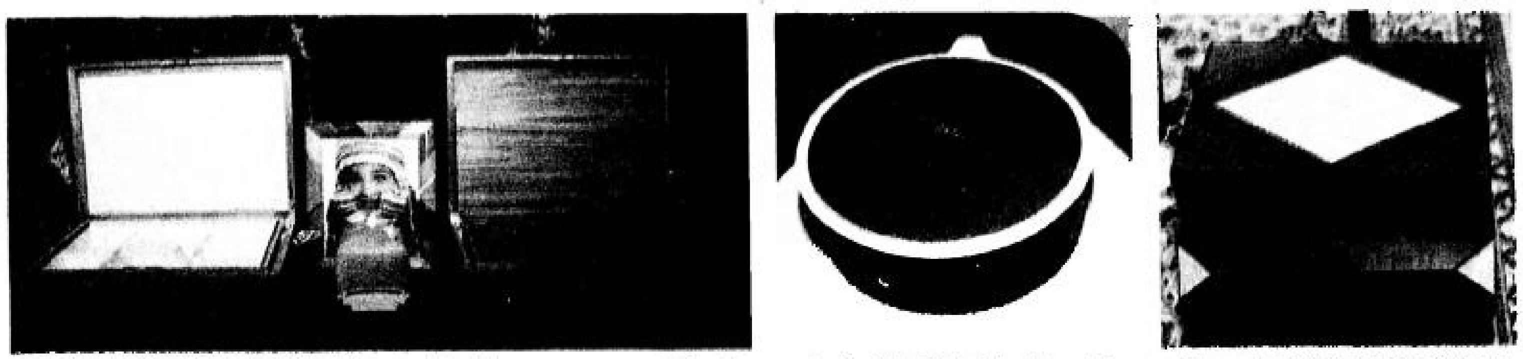
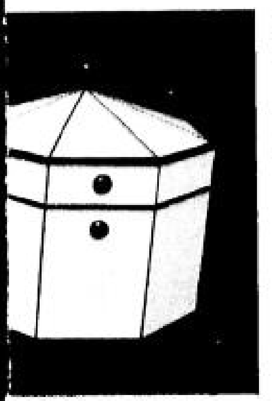
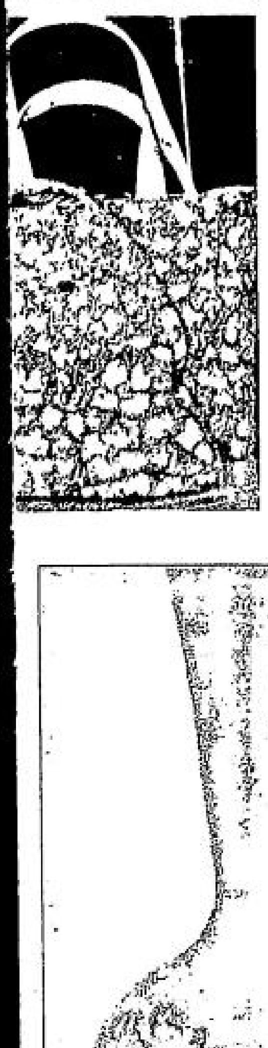




THESE Cebu-made shagreen (stingray skin) items are exported to France, Spain, Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong and Japan by Michel Guinefolleau and his Filipino wife Grace of GA/Cebu Intertrade Export.

SMALL items from GA/Cebu Intertrade Export





home by the designer for use in local shows, is also on display.)

"Business is business, I pay [for my clothes]," the mom says. "Of course, I get 'mommy discount.'" The woman is elegantly dressed in a white pantsuit and top—made by her daughter, quite naturally. "Monique has sold 2,000 pieces of this in different colors," she says of her lacey top. "I patronize other designers... Cebu designers," she clarifies. "I have only one gown by a Manila designer, an Inno Sotto."

Lhuillier proudly says three Filipina brides will be wearing her daughter's designs this year. "Guess who takes the measurements? Me!" she laughs.

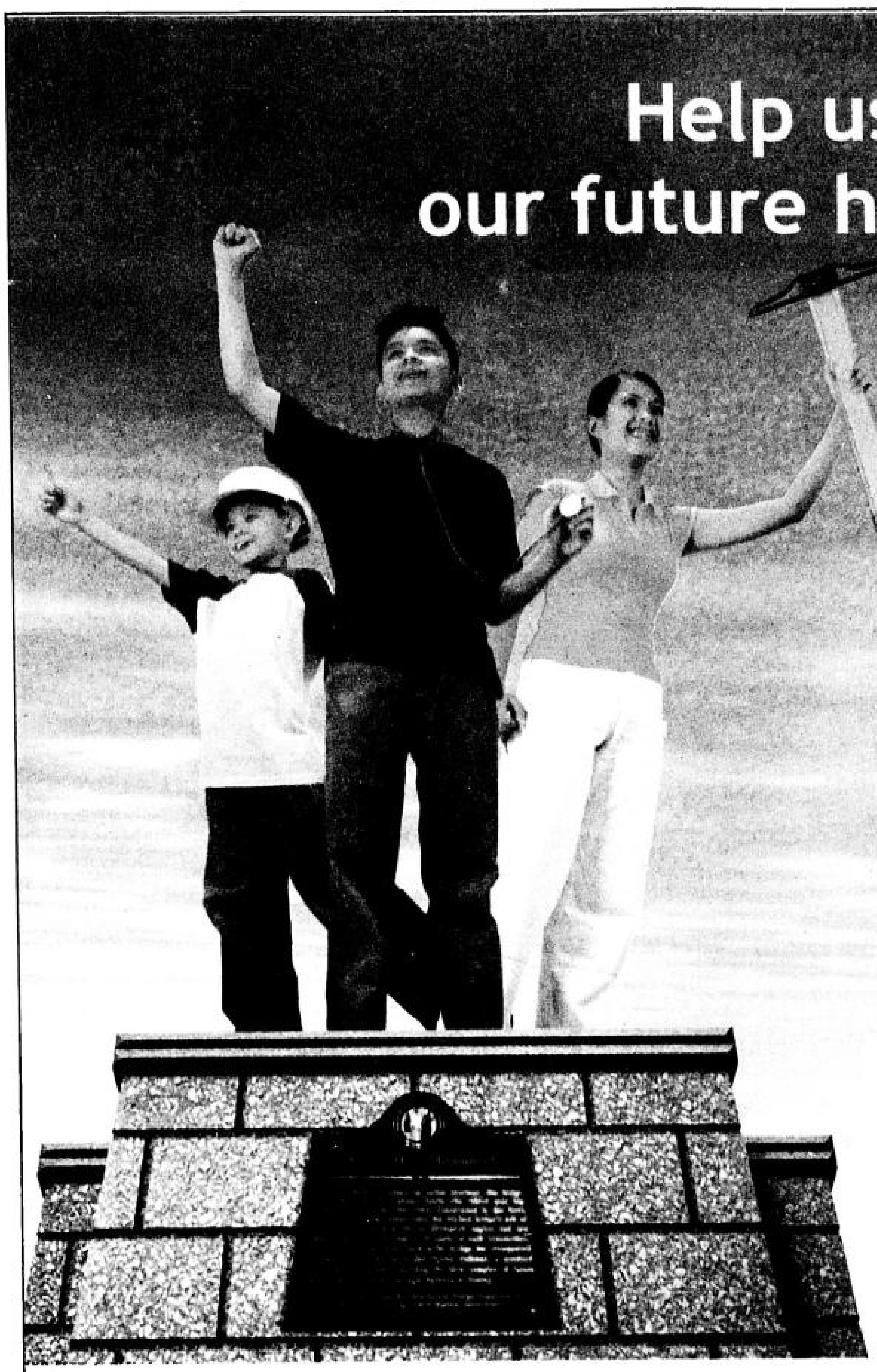
For a bride from Butuan, Lhuillier notes the gown designed by her daughter fit perfectly that the older woman's own couturier only had to make minor adjustments with the shoulder straps.

"Monique, my baby, wanted to become a designer since she was 12 years old. But we tried [to dissuade] her because, you know, it's a difficult business. Well, look at her now," Lhuillier says proudly.

Lhuillier adds she and her husband gave their daughter $10,000 as seed money in 1997. Today, Monique Lhuillier's more elaborate pieces can cost much as that amount. "You know, she was able to make five gowns with that money when she was starting out. Then inquiries came pouring in." At present, says the mother, only one Filipino-American is in her daughter's staff.

The Lhuilliers are scheduled to watch their daughter's collections in September in the United States. "I also want to see the salon given to her by Saks Fifth Avenue in New York," says Lhuillier. "It's right next to Oscar de la Renta and Valentino!"

E-mail cmoral@inquirer.com.ph



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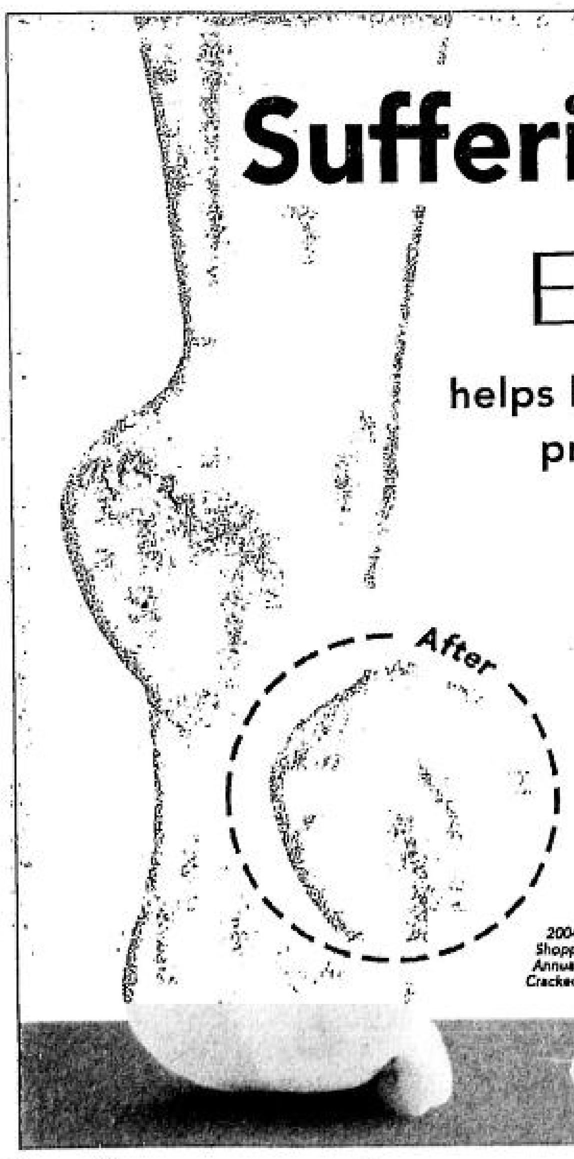

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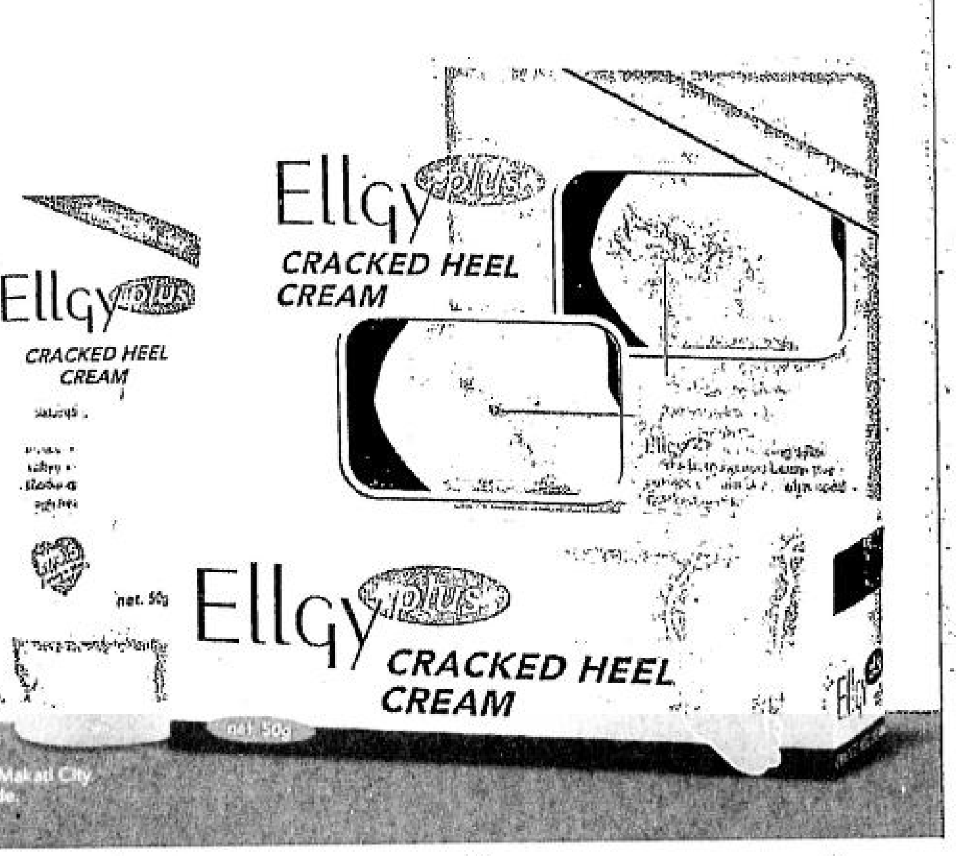

All about men

DAVID Batchelor

DR. JEORG Breuer

SAMSUNG and Metro Society present "Men And Their Moments," a high-profile exhibit of some of the most powerful and influential characters in our society today.

Some 50 photographs come alive from the pages of Metro Society, including its recent much-talked about cover depicting the other side of businessman, philanthropist and sailing enthusiast Andy Soriano. Other notables included in the exhibit are Fernando Zobel, Iñigo Zobel, Santi Elizalde, Peter Zuellig, Hans Sy, Fred Uytengsu, Joey Concepcion and Patxi Elizalde, photographed by today's best lensmen and art-directed by Raul Manzano.

In honor of the inspirational role these successful individuals provide, Samsung offers the ultimate power tool, the D500 phone, designed for men of true style and substance.

Among these is HSBC President and CEO Warner Manning, the person responsible for the company's success over the past years, which has earned him wide admiration and respect.

For Manning, balance is key. "My mornings start with a 20-km bike ride and a 10- km run. I inject a 1-km swim as often as I could." He likewise enjoys golf and the outdoors, and for his work, relies on an efficient, reliable phone like the D500.

"The calling and SMS features are the two functions I use most for work," he explains. "And I greatly rely on the calendar function for meetings, conferences and other important matters."

BMW Philippines president Dr. Jeorg Breuer couldn't agree more. At the helm of today's most successful luxury vehicle company in the Philippines, Breuer is a true believer of uncompromising quality and the perfect marriage of form and functionality.

Breuer's mobile phone needs are basic yet highly critical to his professional and personal endeavors. "A phone gives us important information. It is like a personal assistant. You can't leave your home without it just like your key or wallet. And since I stress on mobility, convenience necessarily follows. I like my phone to be light and small to keep in my pocket or jacket. It should be a tool that helps, not a burden that distracts."

The charming and accommodating Peninsula Manila general manager David Batchelor shares the same priority as he is constantly on his feet, meticulously doing his rounds within the hotel.

In his work, correspondence is endless, with constant coordination of clients' requirements and numerous travels for work-related endeavors.

"Getting in touch and staying connected are priceless to me," says Batchelor. "On top of the convenience it provides me at work, this also allows me to constantly call or text my wife [the lovely Marilou Toda-Batchelor] and kids at certain times that I can't be physically with them. But on weekends, I go karting with my two boys, and plays tennis with my wife and peers."

"Men And Their Moments" also pays tribute to Shopwise president Donnie Tantoco, race-car champion Jojo Silverio, underwater photographer Gutsy Tuason, entrepreneur and sailing enthusiast Santi Picornell, architect Angelo Manosa, international money market broker Mandy Boy Eduque and businessman Jacques Dupasquier.

Also in the exhibit, as featured in Metro Society, are the elusive Carlos Elizalde, Philippine polo icons Anthony Garcia and Dino Santos, design expert Conrad Onglao, Asian Spirit president Noel Onate, the mild-mannered Joey Yupangco, Davaoeños Vincent Floirendo, Anton, JM and Cary Lagdameo; Rustan's heir Joel Tantoco, and Rep. Miguel Zubiri and Secretary Mike Defensor.

In collaboration with Metro Society, Samsung celebrates these men as it highlights the D500 phone—a source of mobile empowerment in a small, handsome package.

The D500 combines a TFT color screen, a soft-touch slide-up form factor, a 1.3-megapixel camera with flash, video recording and messaging, 96MB of user memory, intenna technology, Bluetooth/e-mail/syncML connectivity, 64 polyphonic ringtones, an enhanced voice clarity speakerphone, and an MP3 music player in a tri-band handset that breathes inspiration and innovation.

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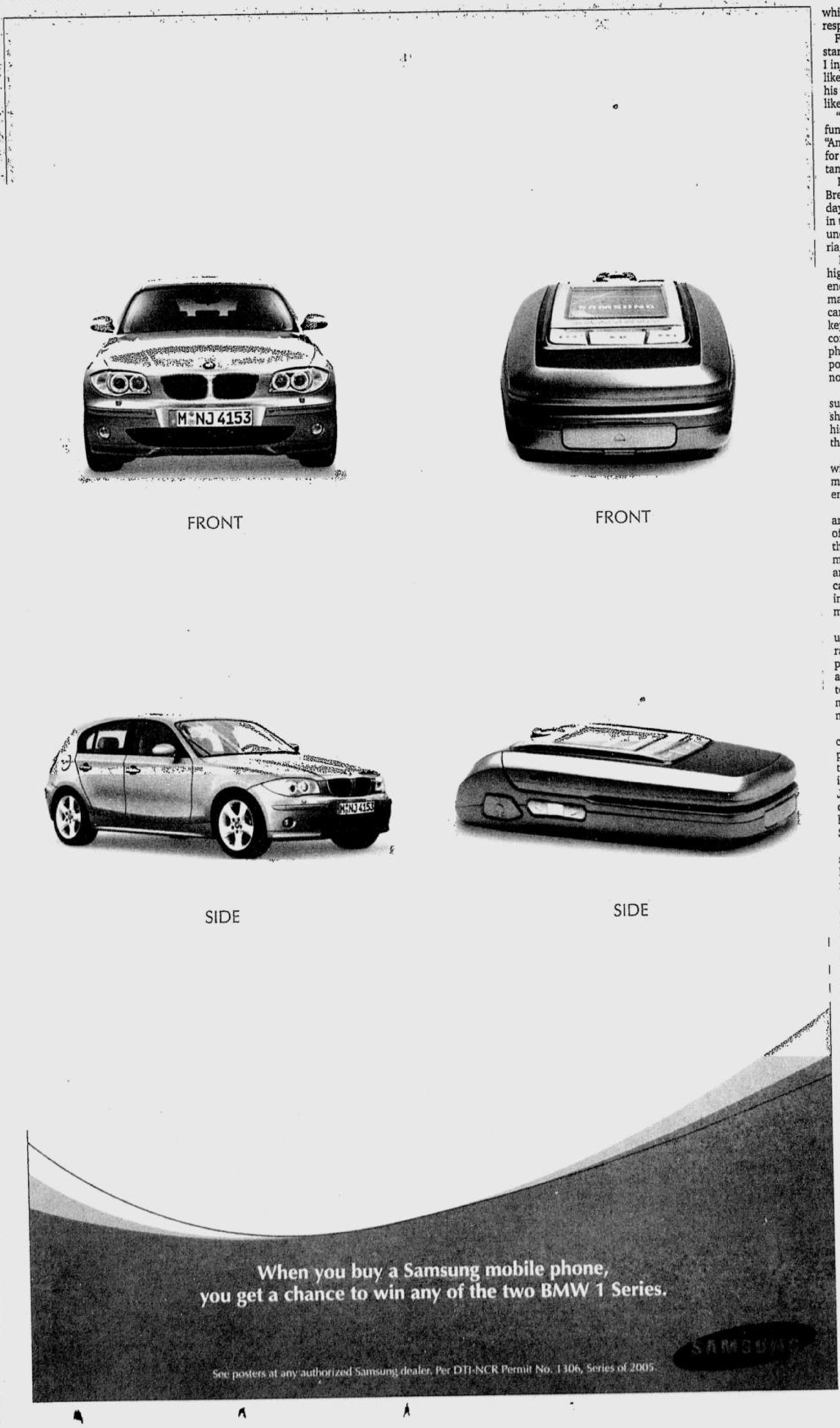
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Sunday LifeStyle

ATIENZA-REYNOSO NUPTIALS

Most applauded bride and groom

Even the priest was impressed by the warm welcome accorded the couple

J. EMILIO escorts the bride, his sister Cecille, to the altar while guests applaud.

By Maurice Arcache
Photos by Alex Van Hagen

ALL, AND I mean all, the 150 invitees agreed that it was definitely one of the most unique wedding experiences we ever had, *palanggas*. Thunderous applause and cheers of encouragement greeted business magnate and car collector, widower Jacky Atienza, as he marched down the aisle of the Santuario de San Antonio with his cute grandson, Nicky Atienza, his best man, minutes before he said "I do" to Swiss-educated and super restaurateur Cecille Reynoso.

The bride, absolutely radiant in her New York-designer loft gown, received deafening applause, howls and whistles, dahlings, from super close pals and immediate famille.

The invitees began to celebrate the union of this one-of-a-kind, happy couple, as Cecille took Jacky's hand, and the two stood before the altar.

The celebrant, the witty Fr. Tony Rosales, OFM, could not help but comment that "in my 30 or so years as a priest, I have never seen or officiated at a wedding with such a warm welcome for the bride and groom."

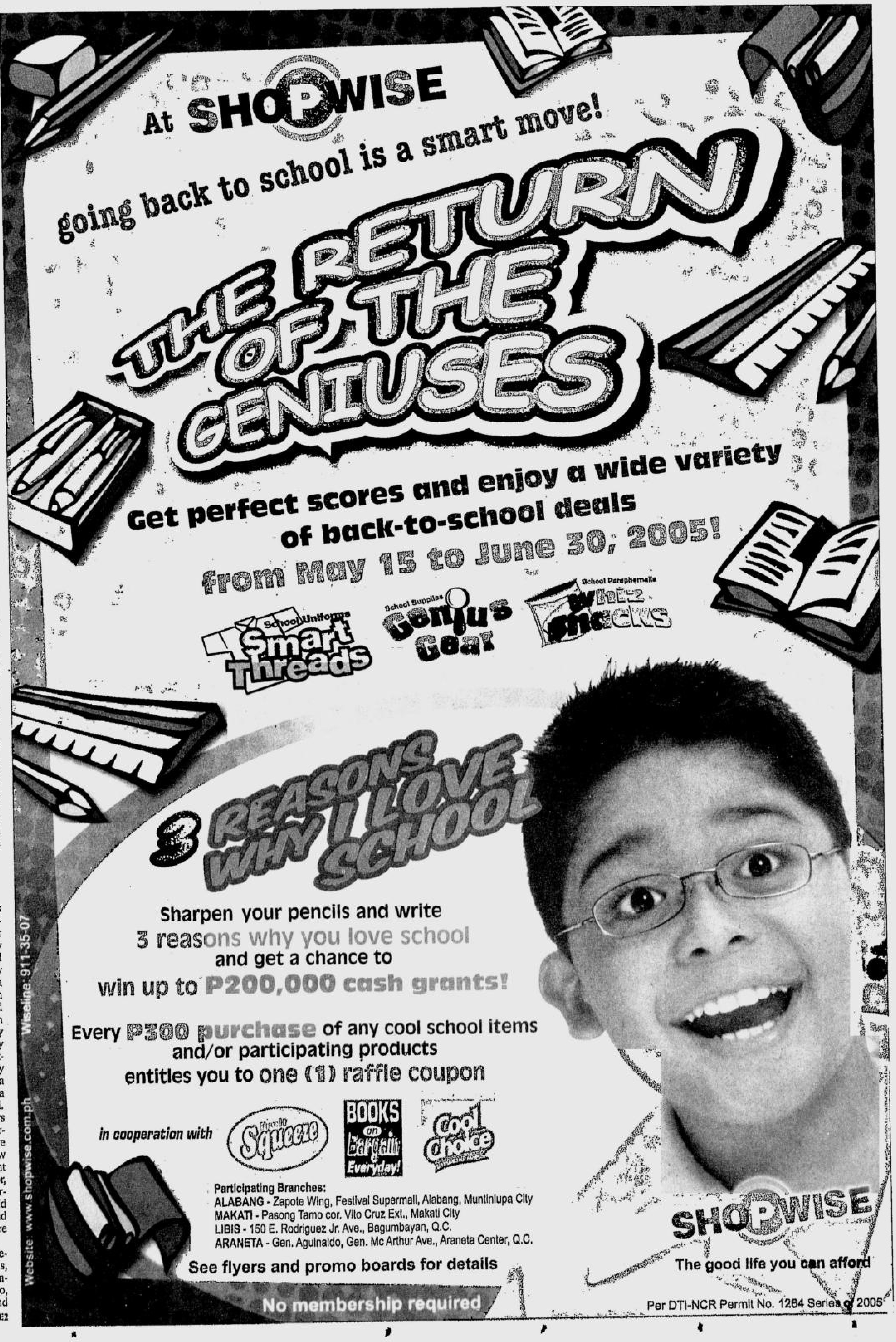
Namedroppables

Principal sponsors included hot namedroppables from our town's old-rich society like David Go and Bonnie Sycip, Jimmy del Rosario and Eloisa Lim, who looked on approvingly. As did the gregarious, fun group of secondary sponsors: Ray Dempsey and Paz Sotto, candle, Toby Manglapus and Mia Laws, veil; and Linda Oledan and *moi*, cord.

Eye-catching sisters two, Charlie and Marty Atienza, were bridesmaids. New York's Restaurant School instructor, gourmet princess Lorrie Reynoso, was maid of honor. Ilano and Louie Chuidian were groomsmen.

Offerers were Cecille's closest gal pals, Victoria Preysler Tuason, Luli Perez Rubio, Maryann Lumen and

MOST/ E2



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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1264 Series of 2005

OLD family names. Handsome businessman Junior Prieto with wife Chiqui Martinez P., the bride Cecille, and Ito Legarda K. and husband Andre Kahn

WITH THE CANDLE, cord and veil sponsors: Linda Oledan, Mia Reynoso Laws, Paz Sotto, Ray Dempsey, Toby Manglapus and *moi*

THE SMART gals behind the well organized wedding: Marichelle Ligon, Rachel Climent and Leah Sanchez of Bridesmaid & Co.

PRIA Gonzales with Annie C. and Toddy Gonzales

WE didn't get the ring! Taking their chance at the cake: Marigay Godinez, Gina Albert and Inez Albert Morgan

THE MOST unique wedding for the most unique couple: widower Jackie Atienza and his bride, Swiss-educated, renowned restaurateur Cecille Reynoso

Most applauded bride and groom

From page E1

Tonette Martel.

The joyful mood of the ceremony set the tone for more celebrating that followed.

At the sit-down dinner that followed at the Manila Polo Club's exclusive Turf Room, the elegant decor of Ramon Pastor greatly enhanced the party atmosphere, *palanggas*. His silver candelabras and vases held fragrant white blooms which, in candlelight, made stunning centerpieces for tables occupied by close relatives and friends that gathered to celebrate.

Heartfelt toast

The Makati Skyline of the Polo Club prepared the excellent dinner. Wine and champagne flowed all throughout the evening. A heartfelt toast was offered by Singapore's mega businessman Ray Dempsey, who also recounted Jacky and Cecille's colorful off-on love story to everyone's sheer enjoyment.

Bernie Pasamba String Quartet that played during the church rites also played during dinner. The Wedding Cake was a beautiful creation by Sylvia Cancio of Cake Lady.

Soon the dancing began to the great sounds of the Spirit of '67 band (who, led by the couple's good friend, Johnny Velasquez, jetted in from Singapore that very evening in time for the wedding reception). After rocking the floor almost till we dropped, we rocked some more to the music provided by Boyet Almazan.

As mementos of their wedding, the couple gave away silver cheese servers, packaged in elegant chiffon pouches from Borders, no less, as we left the fab wedding reception, *palanggas*.

To our dahlings, Cecille and Jacky, our very best wishes and many thanks for making us witness and part of this one-of-a-kind, happy-ending romance.

Cheers, *palanggas*.

THE GANG: (seated) Carla Tengco with New York-based Lorrie Reynoso, Freddie Olbes and moi; (standing) Linda Oledan, Maripi Muscat, Marti Atienza, her dad Jacky A. and Cecille R. A.; stylish woman of substance Kathy de Guzman and our very own ace photographer, Alex Van Hagen

THE BRIDE'S closest pals: Betty Albert, Paz Sotto, Victoria Preysler Tuason, Luli Perez-Rubio Delgado and Maryann Ojeda Lumen

BENG Atienza with her husband, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza (the groom's cousin), Baby Atienza Lim and Drs. Sening and Rosie Cantos

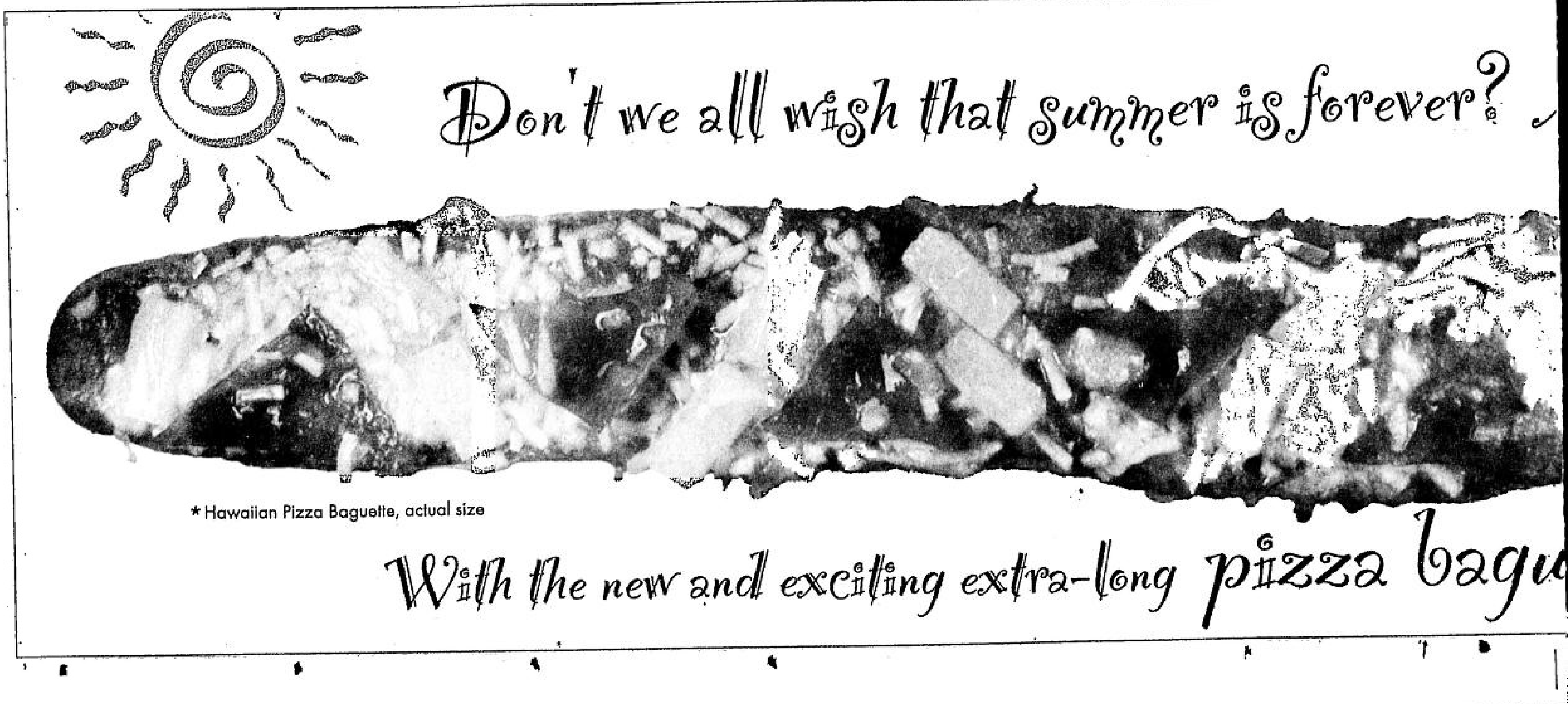
THE ATIENZA familie: Jacky with attractive daughters Charly and Marti, and grandson Nicky

JACK and Cecille with their principal sponsors: David Go, Baby Atienza Lim, Bonnie Sycip and Jimmy del Rosario

POPULAR young couple, top businessman Al Tengco and his wife, Castilian beauty Carla Reyes T.

IS SHE the next bride? Jumping for joy and shock after catching the bridal bouquet, Eva Abesamis (foreground) is cheered on by other bouquet catchers like Lorrie Reynoso, Patricia Reynoso Laws, Baboo Mondoñedo, Minnie Hugo and Menchu Verzosa.

THE OLD-wealth, well-respected Reynoso familie of Pampanga: (seated) Cecille, her mother Africa Reynoso and Jacky Atienza; (standing) Mia R. Laws, Sylvia R. Gala, Leni R. Araullo, Benedict Reynoso, Edna R. Anton, Lorrie Reynoso, Tito Reynoso and J. Emilio Reynoso


Don't we all wish that summer is forever?
* Hawaiian Pizza Baguette, actual size
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Delifrance Pizza Baguette takes centerstage

at the 2005 Philippine Fashion Week

Delifrance was the official food sponsor of the 2005 Philippine Fashion Week held last March 28 to April 6 at the Glorietta Activity Center and at the NBC Tent, Bonifacio Global City. The Philippine Fashion Week is the local version of the world's biggest fashion event staged here in the Philippines.

First in Fashion Week history, Calcarrie's models strut their stuff in the catwalk parading Delifrance's summer premier product - the Pizza baguette - last April 1, 2005 during the CalCarrie's Night at the Glorietta Activity Center. One of the highlights of the event hosted by CalCarrie's top caliber model VJ Sarah Meier was the unveiling of Delifrance's complete summer collection to the delight of a "full house" audience.

Delifrance's booth indulged the participants and guests with the crunchiest and longest pizza baguettes and mouth-watering frappés.

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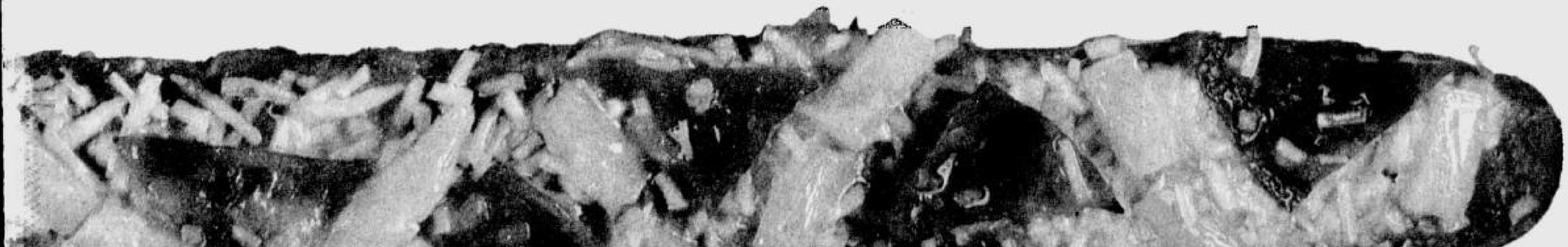

ette, the longest, juiciest and crunchiest pizza in town.

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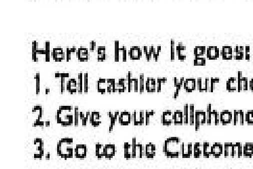
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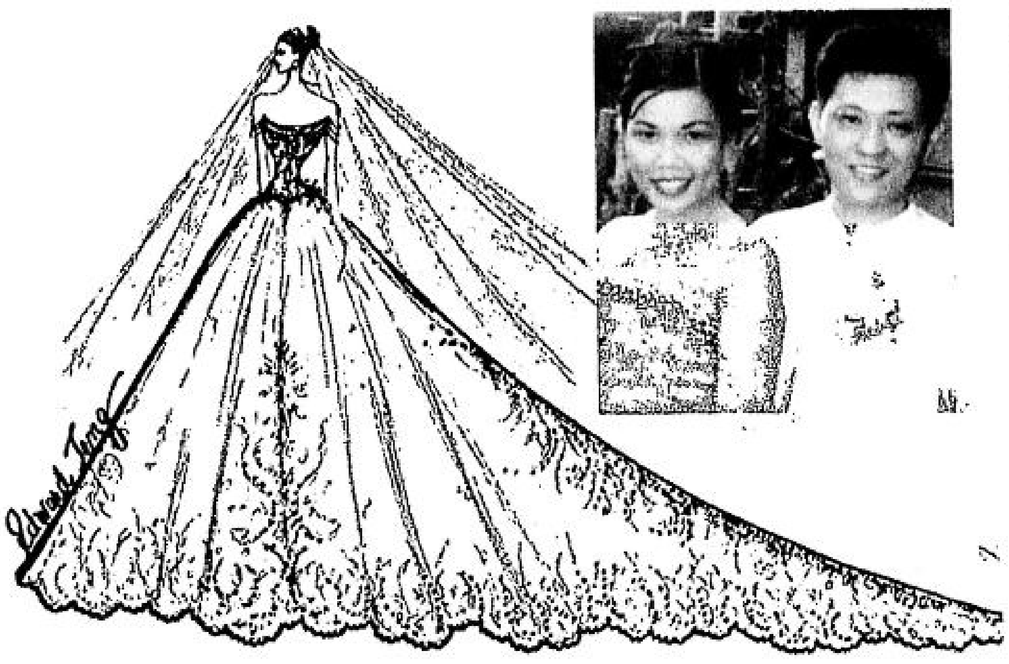
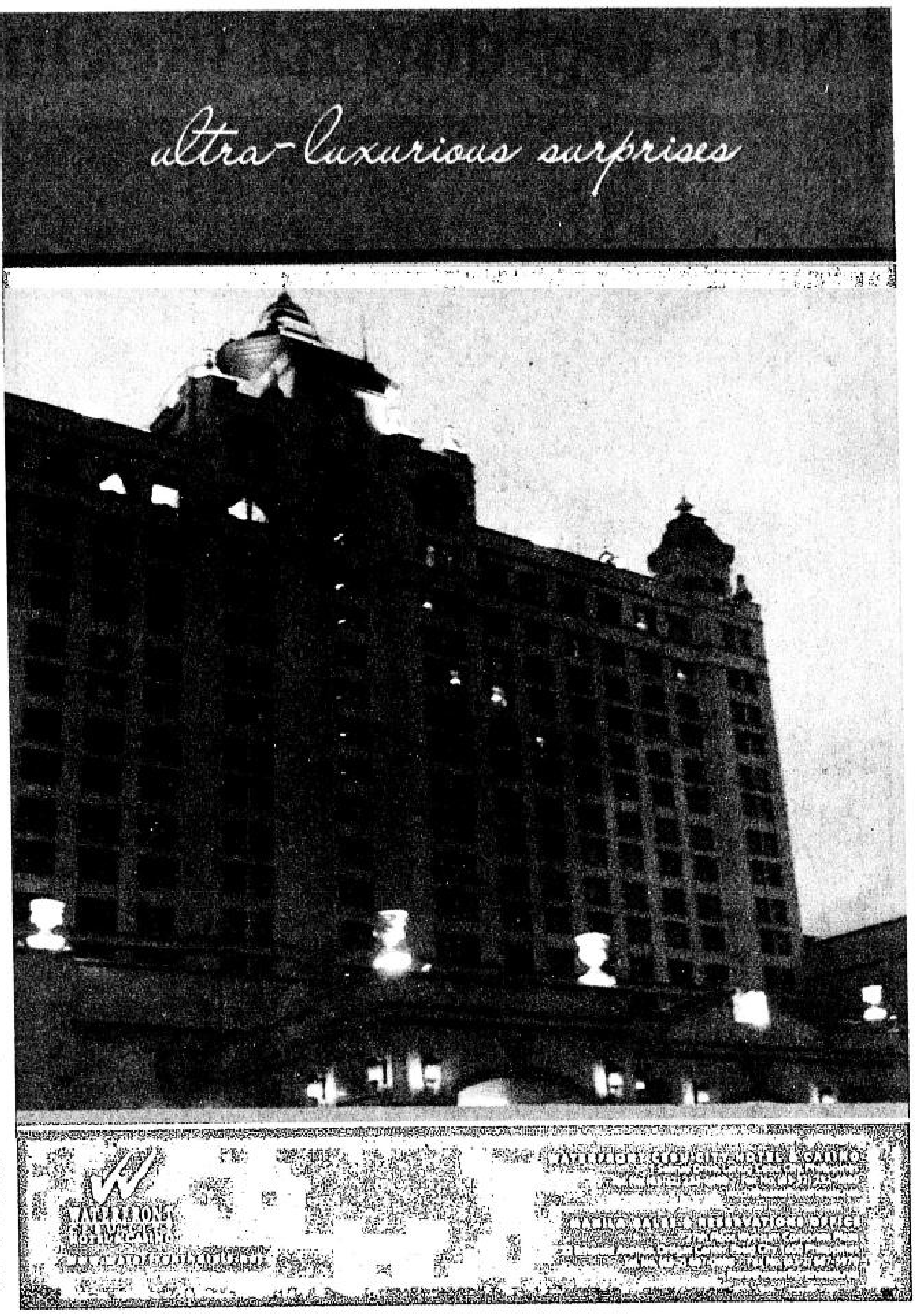


BAUTISTA- SAMANIEGO

Architect **Jose Marie T. Bautista**, son of **Jose** and **Maria Luisa Bautista**, and engineer **Sheryl R. Samaniego**, daughter of **Manuel** and **Emelita Samaniego**, will exchange marriage vows at 7 tonight at St. Pancratius Chapel, San Marcelino, Manila. Reception will follow at Paco Park Garden. The bride will wear a gazar corset gown with a bouffant skirt with scalloped hemline. It is detailed and encrusted with assorted beads, and has a 25-yard train. **Edward Teng** designed the gown and the groom's suit.

TABORADA-REPONTE

Rhandy Taborada, son of **Rodilberto** and **Helenita Taborada**, married recently **Maryjane Reponte**, daughter of **Faustino** and **Matilde Reponte**, at the Immaculate Heart of Mary parish church, Minglanilla, Cebu. Msgr. **Esteban Binghay** officiated at the wedding. Reception followed at the bride's residence in Sitio Tabay, Tungha-an, Minglanilla, Cebu.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Nine-day novena for Our Lady of all Nations

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

ON MAY 22-30, several churches will hold the nine-day novena to Our Lady of all Nations in preparation for the Day of Prayer on May 31. The celebration marks the approval of the public devotion to Our Lady under this title in 1996 by then Bishop Henrik in the Diocese of Harleem in Amsterdam.

It was in 2002 that the present bishop, Joseph Punt, declared the authenticity of the apparitions of Our Lady to Ida Peerdeman starting in March 1945.

The reported apparitions triggered controversy, especially when it was learned Our Lady told Ida Peerdeman that one day she would be declared "Co-Redemptrix, Co-Mediatrix and Advocate."

Tony and Chona Montinola went to Amsterdam for the first time in 1991 on the suggestion of Bishop John Ito who brought the image of Our Lady of Akita to Manila. Bishop Ito told the couple that the statue of Our Lady of Akita was almost like Our Lady of all Nations.

For the past 14 years, the Montinolas had been propagating the devotion to Our Lady of all Nations, holding the nine-day novena then day of prayer on May 31, printing novenas and donating icons of Our Lady.

This year the novena will be held at the Center of Peace Asia at 11:30 a.m., May 19-20, 23-27 and 30-31 followed by a Mass.

In Cebu, the novena, to be held May 22-31 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, is organized by the National Confraternity of the Lady of all Nations with Zenaida Belcifia as president.

Novenas will also be held at 4:45 p.m., May 22-30, in, among others, San Diego Pro-Cathedral, Silay; Marian Center, Angin, Naguilian, La Union; and St. Joseph Cathedral, Tagbilaran.

Those who wish to pray to Our Lady of all Nations can visit the Manila Cathedral. Those who want novenas can call 8439015. Parishes that want the Lady of all Nations enthroned in their churches can write the Confraternity of the Lady of all Nations at P.O. Box (8)814, Dasmariñas Village, 1222 Makati City.

Controversial message

Our Lady told Ida Peerdam: "On this date the Co-Redemptrix, Mediatrix and Advocate will receive her official title as 'The Lady of All Nations.' Mark well these three thoughts in one act. These three."

Ida said, "Now the Lady shows me three fingers and moves her other hand around herself, and then it is as if a haze, a radiant veil, is coming about her.

"And now I let your theologians see these three thoughts, these three thoughts in one act. I say this twice because there are some who want only one thought. The Holy Father will agree to the former. You, however, shall help him to get there. Understand all of this well."

The message became controversial because, in declaring her "Co-Redemptrix," the Virgin would be placed in the same rank as Jesus Christ.

Fluvial procession

Devotees of Our Lady of Charity in Agoo, La Union revived the traditional fluvial procession to mark her fiesta last May 7. Organized by the "Timpuyog ti Parukyano ken Mangngalap ni Nuestra Señora de la Caridad," the procession was led by Msgr. Alfonso Lacsamana, parish priest; Fr. Gari Patiag, assistant parish priest, and Knight of Columbus Erlindo Pocsidio, Parish Pastoral Council president. Thirteen coastal barangays participated with 100 boats.

Amparo Aspiras and family were there to give support. Bro. Cesar Talucod was liturgy committee chair. The event was held in cooperation with Mayor Eufranio Eriguel and engineer Alfredo Doctolero, Jr., overall chair of the event. Bro. Cesar, by the way, continues to build the house for the elderly. He needs cement and steel. Please text him at 0917-7959565.

Fiesta

The feast day of *Virgen de los Remedios* in Barangay Baliti, San Fernando, Pampanga falls on May 21. The church facade has a new coat of paint and restoration goes on.

The original image of the *Virgen de los Remedios* is enshrined in the church, which is dedicated to San Roque. A replica is kept in the Chancery and brought out on the annual re-enactment of the canonical coronation in 1956. Two more replicas were made for processions in southern and northern towns of Pampanga.

Kannawidan

The Kannawidan Foundation, Inc. (KFI)-Laoag City committee met recently at the Palazzo de Laoag hotel to discuss future projects. Present were Porfiria Raval; Betty Merritt, secretary; Mian Gancayco; Ogie Alviar, vice president; Nonong Ablan, Laoag City committee chair; Rosebella Corpuz; Pollie Taylan; Grace de Jesus; and lawyer Erning Albano, legal counsel. The group discussed how to increase membership.

At present, Kannawidan is subsidizing the entrance fees of school children and senior citizens at the Iloko Museo and giving financial assistance to the Pamulinawen Dance Festival. It will hold an on-the-spot painting contest in cooperation with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts in August. Kannawidan's vision is to preserve the rich culture of the Ilocanos through its projects.

Pilgrimage

Adam's Travel is organizing a pilgrimage to Egypt, Jordan and the Holy Land. Msgr. Jerome Reyes leads the group that will leave May 23. Call 5211651 or text 0915-5514468.

Nuestra Señora de Guia

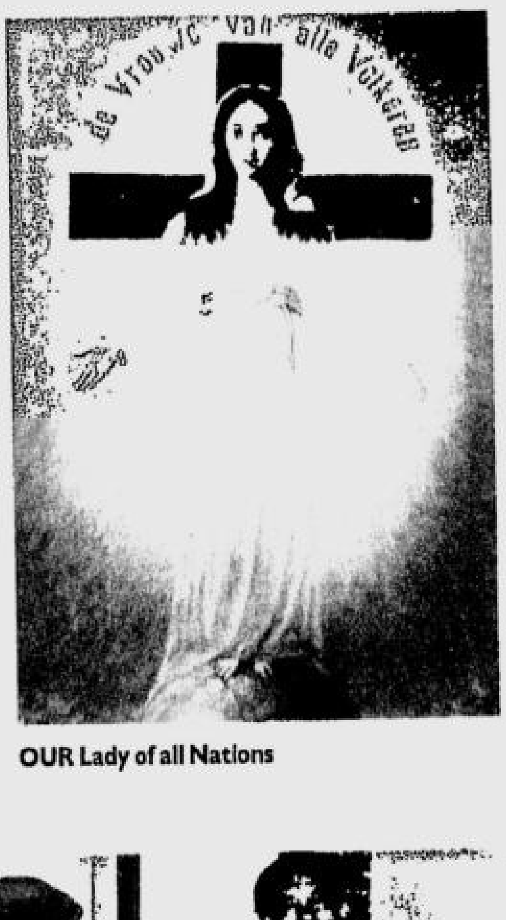
Novena Masses are ongoing at Ermita Church for the feast day of *Nuestra Señora de Guia* on May 19. Flowers will be offered to the Virgin in a ritual called *"bota flores" led by the capitana* at 5 p.m., May 19. Fr. Sanny de Claro leads the celebration with religious organizations participating.

Commemorative papal issue

The Varsitarian, the highly respected 77-year-old official student publication of the University of Santo Tomas, has just released a special commemorative magazine in honor of Pope John Paul II. The special issue relives the late Pope's two papal visits to the campus, which is the only pontifical university in Asia. It also assesses his legacy while providing interesting biographical sidelights about the Pope, such as his earlier involvement in theater and his doctoral studies under the Dominicans of Angelicum in Rome. Call 4061611 loc. 8235.

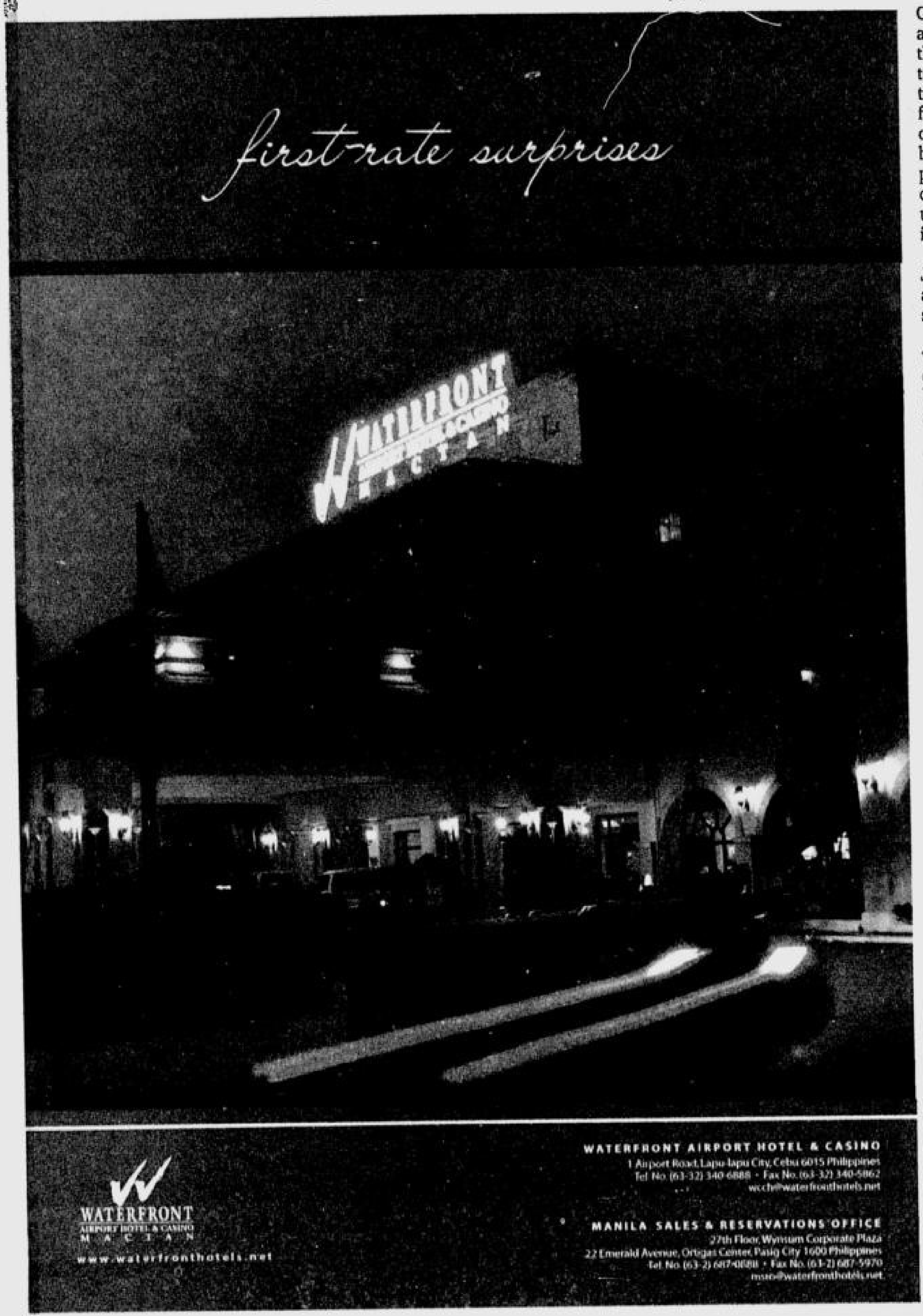
Varsitarian
Pope John Paul
(1920-2005)

UST VARSITARIAN'S special commemorative magazine in honor of Pope John Paul II



OUR Lady of all Nations

KANNAWIDAN meeting in Laoag. Seated: Porfiria Raval, Betty Merritt, Mian Gancayco and Ogie Alviar; (standing) Nonong Ablan, Rosebella Corpuz, Pollie Taylan, Grace de Jesus and lawyer Erning Albano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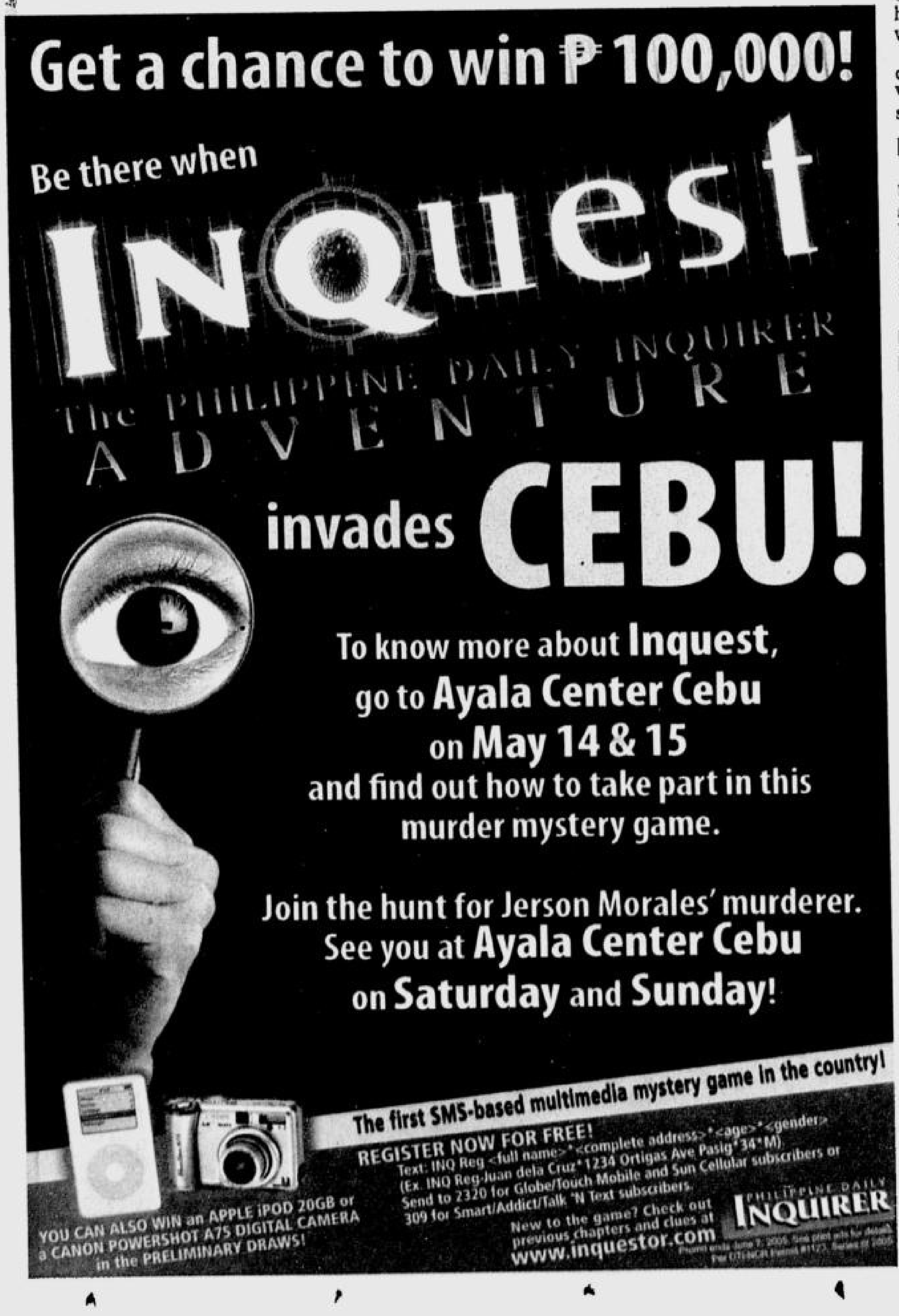
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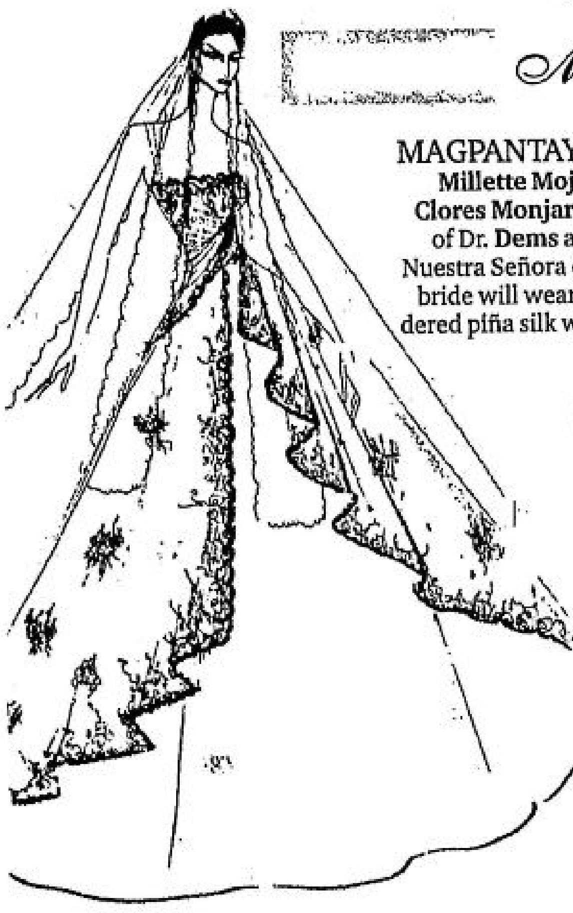
Milestones



MAGPANTAY-MOJARES

Millette Mojares, daughter of **Ricardo** and **Evelyn Clores Monjares**, will marry **Ronan Magpantay**, son of Dr. **Dems** and **Teresita Magpantay**, on May 21 at Nuestra Señora de los Angeles, Sta Maria, Laguna. The bride will wear a **Jonathan Eusebio** gown of embroidered piña silk with sand crystals and Swarovki stones.

RAMOS-ALQUERO

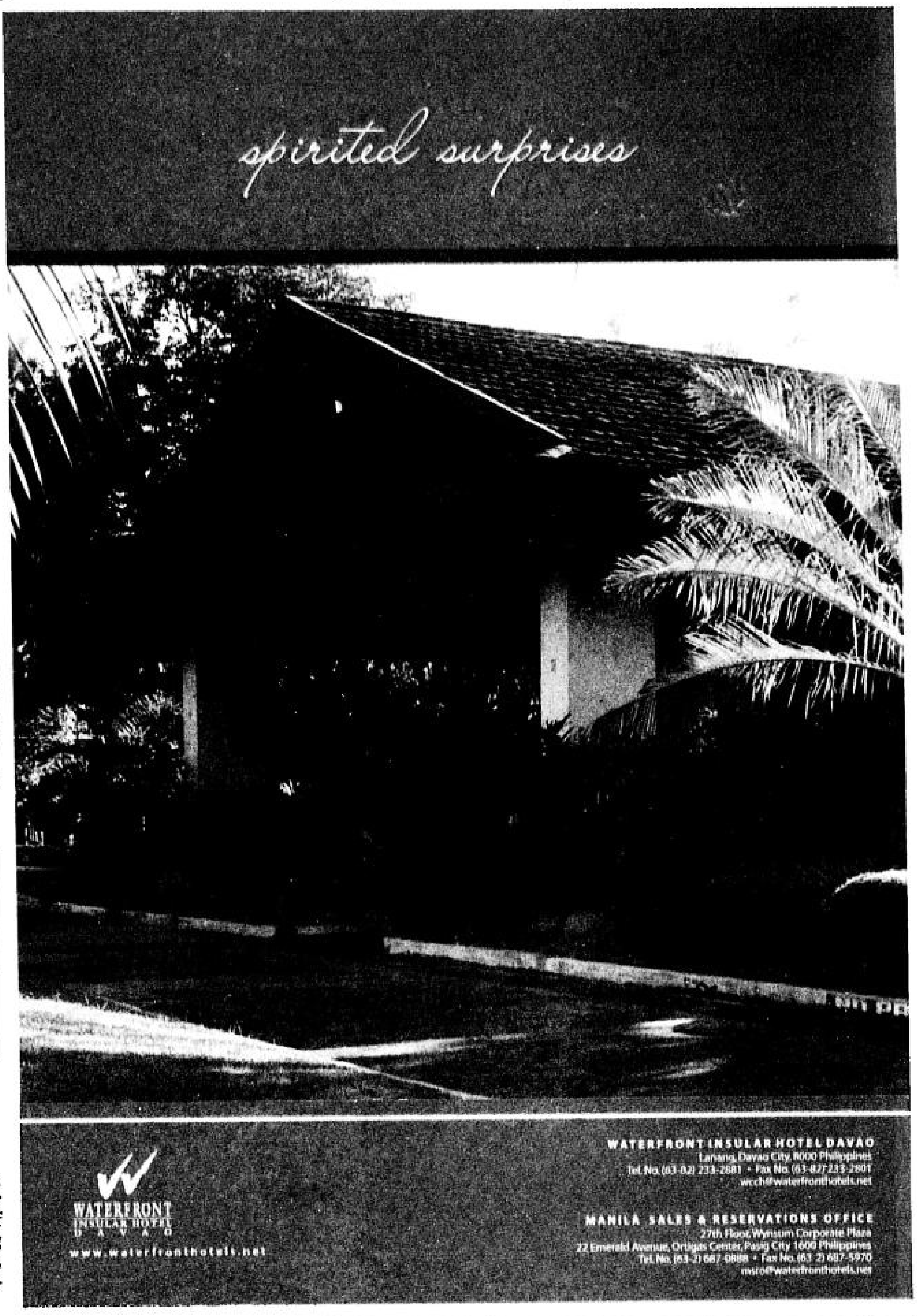
Errol Ramos, son of **Norberto** and **Erlinda Ramos**, and **Leslie Alquero**, daughter of **Armando** and **Erlinda Alquero**, will exchange vows on June 4 at the Shrine of Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life, Reclamation Area, Pasay City. Reception will follow at the Grand Boulevard Hotel, Roxas Boulevard, Manila.

PABLO-SALUT

Rollo Mikhail A. Pablo, son of **Enrico** and **Juanita Pablo**, will exchange vows with **Flourde Luz M. Salut**, daughter of **Luciano** and **Lourdes Salut**, on May 21 at San Sebastian Basilica, Plaza del Carmen, Quiapo, Manila. Reception will follow at the Manila Diamond Hotel.

ALVARADO-RIVERA

Mr. and Ms **Tony Rivera** of Garden Grove, California, announce the engagement of their daughter, **Portia**, to **Erick Alvarado**, son of **Zoila Alvarado** of New York City. The wedding is set on Nov. 12 at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Joseph. Reception will follow at Fairmont Hotel.



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c. Any CloseUp Pack

Where and when to go
Submit the requirements at participating malls:
May 28 -29
SM Megamall - Atrium, Upper Level Building B
June 4-5
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SM Davao - Entertainment Plaza Second Level
Naga - Plaza Quezon

The feeling isn't mutual

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

> 'He used kind words to tell me to stop communicating with him and wished me good luck in finding the right man'

DEAR Emily,

I liked this guy since I first saw him. So, I made the first move by "courting" him. I started to talk to him, wrote him letters, called him on the phone and went to places where I knew he would be.

He never talked to me though unless I initiated the conversation. Sometimes, I'd catch him staring at me and nothing more.

I was abroad one time when I suddenly dreamt about him and I got worried. I thought something awful happened to him. I also thought it was the right time to tell him how I felt about him. So I called him and told him everything.

He told me he had a girlfriend. He used kind words to tell me to stop communicating with him and wished me good luck in finding the right man.

When I came home after a year, I saw him in church and our eyes met. I caught him looking at me—twice. Then I heard that he and his girlfriend broke up.

A month ago in church, I saw him again looking at me but when I smiled, he looked down. I had thought that after being away, I'd have lost my feelings for him, but I haven't really.

He is two years younger than me. I really love him... but I'll just avoid him and hope that these feelings will go away.

No one ever courted me and I am now in my 30s. I'm willing to be a single woman all my life. I am OK with it. It's just that I wonder why, with all the men I've loved, the feelings had been one-sided all the time. They were never mutual.

Am I doing anything wrong or is it just the way life is sometimes?

SUI GENERIS

Firstly, this boy you tried to "court" was never into you. He himself asked you not to communicate with him anymore, remember? Don't read stuff where there are none.

You caught him looking at you because he probably wanted to catch you looking at him... or he was wondering if you were still interested in him. Just think—if he ever wanted you or even liked you a bit, he had so many chances of showing it—before, during and after having a girlfriend.

You will never find a man if you do the courting. Let him believe he was running after you though, in fact, you were the one running toward him at 150 miles per hour. Men salivate more at the mystery of a fully-clad woman than at a full-front exhibition.

Ergo, practice the art of subtlety even if you are already dying to drown that man in your ardor.

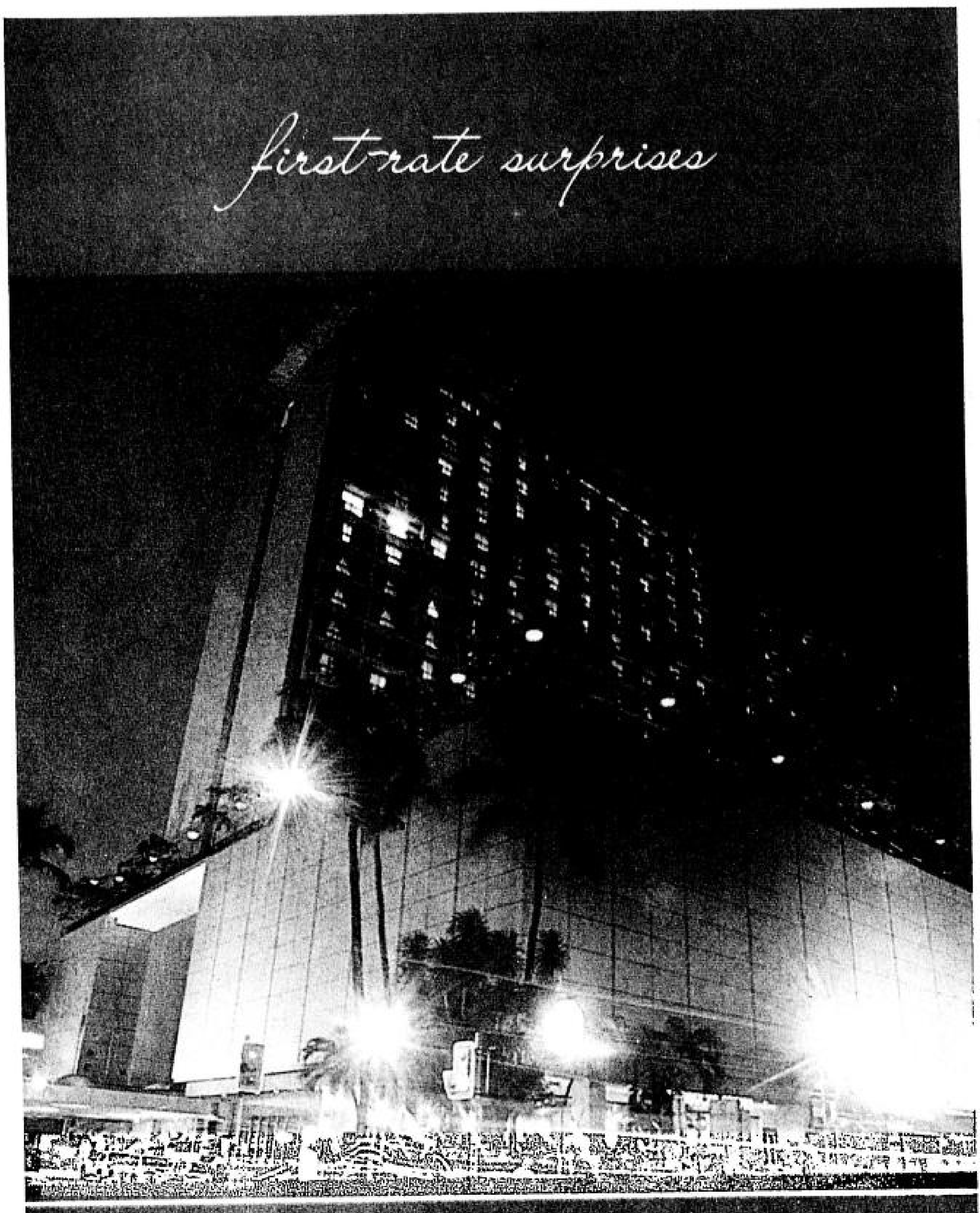
Being 30 is not the end of the world for a woman and no reason to declare her single blessedness for all eternity. Life is a river and you just have to go with its flow. Don't rush love and don't rush men.

As a saying goes: love is like a thief in the night. You'll never know when or where it will find you. And don't look for it.

Haven't you learned your lesson, that you were looking for it in all the wrong places and all the wrong men? Enjoy being 30—alone or with friends who love you. Your happiness and contentment may suddenly radiate to others and, pretty soon, attract someone somewhere.

You must set the condition that he has to be in love with you, passionately! It's no big deal having just any man in your life. But if you're unlucky enough to find the bad sort, you might wish you were bitten instead by a deadly snake. At least, that ordeal is short and quick... unlike life with a jerk when you might suffer till kingdom come....

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to Inquirer. Listen to Ms. Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 pm, Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.



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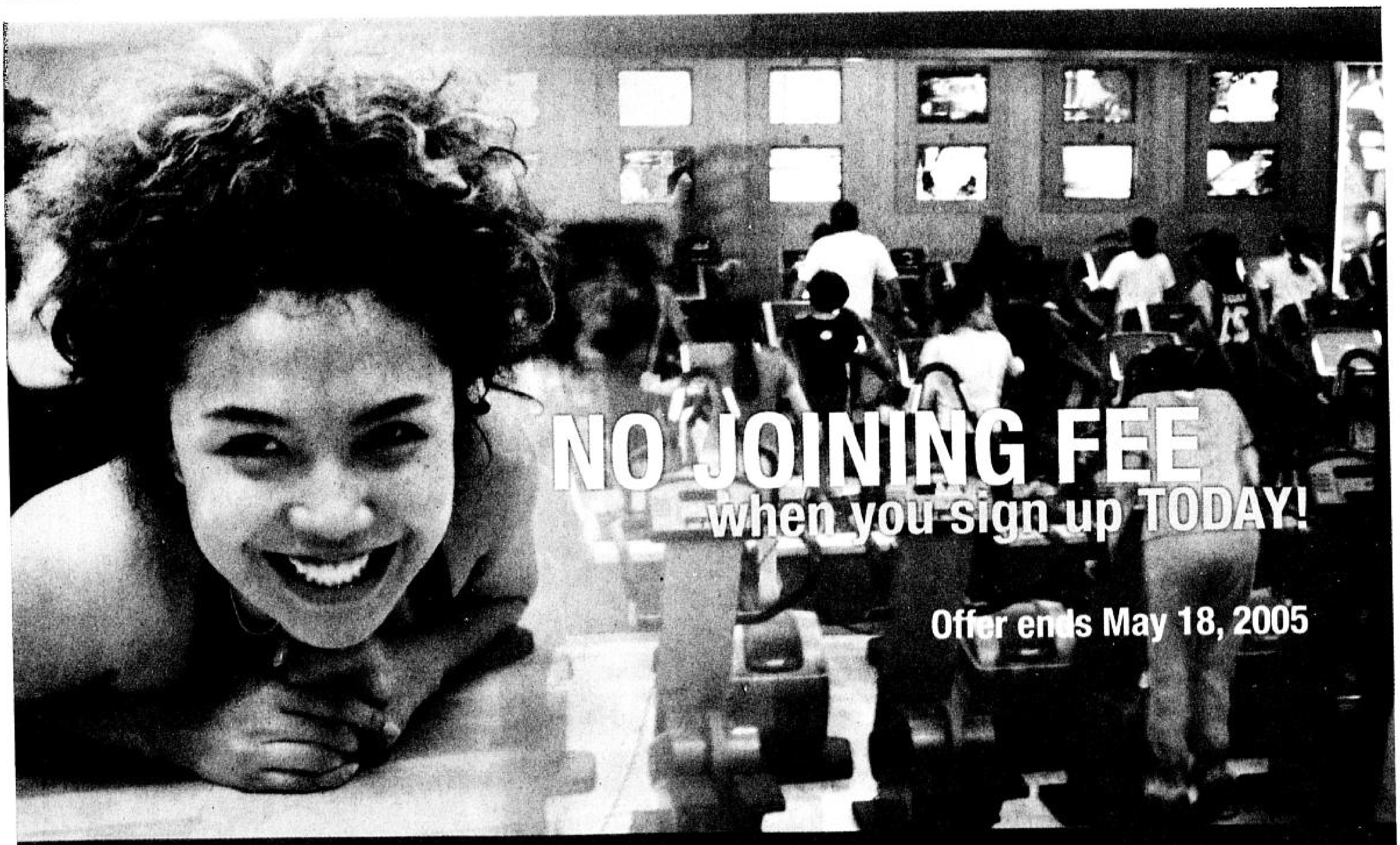

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COLORFUL shrub at mini-botanical garden

By Tita V. Giron
Photos by Linda Bolido

NAME a popular garden abroad, and Dory Bernabe would have read about it in her gardening magazines and books. She may even have visited it, if it is in Prague and Paris, or San Francisco and Los Angeles.

If it is in Asia or the Philippines, she would have been there for sure.

Traveling and gardening are Bernabe's passions, a well-known fact in the gardening circle. And wherever she is, she makes it a point to visit gardens. Making things easier for her is the fact that her daughter Camille lives in Malaysia, son Reginald is in Prague and daughter Fortune in San Francisco.

In most garden shows here, it is also very likely to see her prize-winning plants on display. She is a member of several gardening clubs.

Since her retirement from the family-owned manpower export and real estate business, Bernabe has been quite preoccupied with gardening. "It's good for me in many ways, emotionally and physically," she said when we visited her hideaway in Pansol, Los Baños, Laguna.

Melting pot

The Pansol garden, we found out, has changed in so many ways. From a weekend sanctuary, it has become a melting pot of plant lovers. Garden and flower clubs hie there for their meetings. Friends go there to bond with Bernabe among her diverse collection of plants.

Last Thursday, for instance, the Philippine Horticulture Society spent the afternoon there to see new additions to her original garden. Some weeks ago, she hosted meetings of the Ikebana group as well as of cacti and succulent fanciers.

From the few times we've visited the Pansol garden, we remember vividly special spots. Most memorable are fruiting trees that screen the swimming pool and jacuzzi from the pockets of gardens.

There's the big *macopa* tree that bears a lot of bright red fruits, another *macopa* with golden fruits, and the seedless and sweet *mabolo* tree. Hoya vines, ferns and orchids are attached to the trunks and branches of these trees.

Somewhere in the garden is the cactus and succulent nook among rare ornamental stones and rocks, which Bernabe also collects. Her award-winning cacti are displayed here. Close by is the bonsai garden, with some of the dwarfed trees that have won blue ribbons in competitions.

Mini botanical garden

But the pleasant surprise is the new mini botanical garden located in another property. It used to be a "garden of odds and ends." But now the hilly property has been skillfully landscaped to take advantage of the uneven ground contour.

HAPPINESS/ G2

TENDER loving care is what it takes to come up with this unblemished cactus.

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Arranged by DIGNA AGRA ROXAS

Tears?

Platinum albums, hit concerts, screaming fans, TV and movie roles. Sometimes, all these can be overwhelming for a 16-year-old. Yet, Sarah still counts her "Star for a Night" win as the most memorable. After years of seeking out and joining talent shows in every town her parents could take her, like a fairy-tale princess she finally earned her place not through birthright but through patience, hardwork and sacrifice.

Knowing how it feels to get the big break, Sarah has joined the Tears of Hope, Tears of Health campaign of the Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines (EBFP), a non-profit humanitarian organization committed to alleviating corneal blindness in Filipinos, and Visine Refresh, a tears substitute. On its tenth year, EBFP keeps the hope of restored sight alive by making corneal transplant surgery accessible to all, and prevents more unnecessary blindness by educating the public on the importance of healthy eyes.

In line with this campaign, each purchase of Visine Refresh will mean a donation to the EBFP in support of its fight against corneal blindness.

You, too, can help the EBFP by donating cash, or signing on as a cornea or eye donor. Join Sarah, Visine Refresh and the Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines in the Tears of Hope, Tears of Health campaign, and ensure that our fellow Filipinos see a bright future ahead.

Sarah
Sarah Geronimo
Champion Singer/Actress

EYE BANK FOUNDATION OF THE PHILIPPINES
A NON-PROFIT NON-GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATION

Visine* Refresh

Retired entrepreneur Dory Bernabe says caring for plants is good for her emotionally and physically

UNDERNEATH a fruit-laden *macopa* tree are Bernabe's aerial plants: Spanish moss, tillandsia, hoya and dischidia.

DOROTHY Bernabe, the passionate gardener, in her cactus and succulent garden

Happiness is gardening

From page G1

A two-level pond with running water and a set of steps on the side lead visitors to the hilltop where a hut stands among rare fruit trees. Along the way are bromeliads, blooming bushes, rare ferns, cacti, as well as ornamental and water plants.

At the top of the hill is a bed of peanuts and three cashew nut trees which, Bernabe said, "don't fail to amaze many visitors with their odd fruits that bear nuts outside the bright yellow fruits."

The cashew nuts provide an introduction to Bernabe's collection of rare fruiting trees and vegetables. Among the different varieties of trees are the latexless *langka*, which is sweeter and meatier than the traditional variety.

Her bamboo collection at the mini botanical garden is something to see, but we found her scented plants and trees even more interesting, if not mesmerizing. There are *champaca, ylang-ylang*, a popular Chinese scented shrub whose name we cannot remember, jasmine, magnolia, lilac, *dama de noche* and more.

The mini botanical garden is called La Colina Adorada or My Beloved Hill, a name that has a double meaning. Bernabe's formal name is Adorada.

Indulged

"I am lucky that my family spoils me when it comes to my hobby," Bernabe said. Her husband, Armando, volunteered to undertake the development of her mini botanical garden. Sons Randy and George now manage the family business.

She spoke fondly of her visit to Prague where son Reginald is with the Philippine consulate. "When I'm in Prague, I get to see the biggest covered arboretum I have seen in all my travels around Europe. My favorite spot in the arboretum is the cactus garden and a special section in the tropical greenhouse for Philippine plants."

Bernabe also had fond memories of trips to Barcelona's palm and cacti garden at the Olympic Village, as well as the Fata Morgana garden in Paris.

Mementos of these visits to the world's popular gardens are seen in her garden, like the agave from Prague, which has adapted very well to the environment of La Colina Adorada.

She offered this advice to other retirees: "Take up gardening and your days and nights won't be boring."

SUISEKI stones from all over the world are reminders of Bernabe's travels.

FOREST-TYPE bonsai

RARE blue fern and asplenium with unusual leaves

AGELESS bonsai trees are often featured in garden shows.

"IT REQUIRES patience and skill to create this well-aged bonsai."

Ikebana arrangement for your home

GREEN TIPS

By Serapion S. Metilla
Contributor

MAY is the month of flowers. To enjoy flowers in our homes, we should know some basic principles for arranging cut flowers artistically in a vase, be it Ikebana, mass or free style.

Ikebana, which means living plant materials in water, is flower arrangement but not all flower arrangements can be called Ikebana.

Some basic principles have to be followed when doing Ikebana arrangements.

Basic Ikebana is divided into two styles—Moribana and Nageire. Moribana is arranged in a shallow container—rectangular, round, oval or square—about two inches deep, using a *kenzan* (pin-point flower holder) as anchorage. Nageire is when a tall vase and bamboo-like materials, without *kenzan*, are used.

Both arrangements will show the basic lines and the three elements—*shin*, *soe* and *tai*—or heaven, man and earth.

As to balance and proportion, heaven, which can be a branch or flower, must have a height at least 1½ times the length of the container. The second element, Man, must be about 2/3 of Heaven, while the third element, Earth, must be 2/3 of Man or ½ of Heaven.

Add another one inch to each element for anchorage.

As to position, if heaven is upright, man must be slanted about 45° to the left and earth must be slanted about 60° obliquely forward to the right.

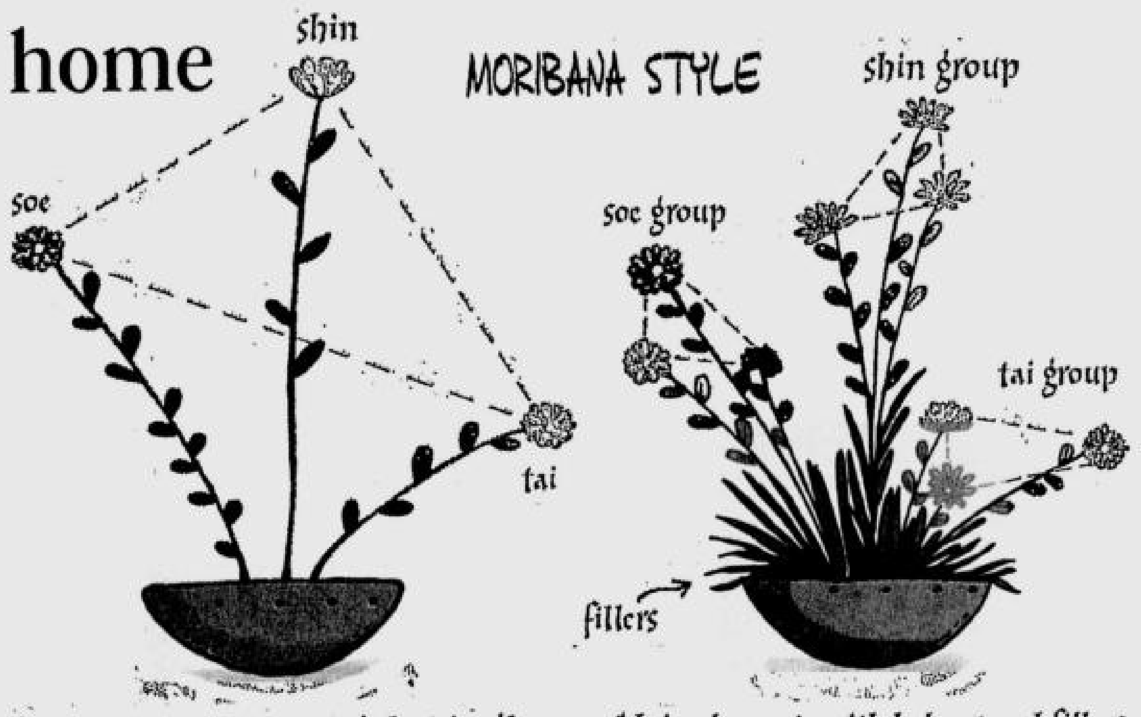
If you draw an imaginary line from the tip of heaven to the tip of man, to the tip of earth and back to heaven, you will have a triangle in a tilted position.

Other materials to be added are the "helpers." Each element may have one or two depending upon the lushness of the materials. Helpers are usually placed at the back of the main element obliquely forward, sideward or backward.

If you think there are still vacant spaces, you may add tiny fillers with subdued colors only to enhance and not to compete with the other materials.

Flowers you can use include chrysanthemums, anthuriums, orchids, gladiolas, bromeliads, asters, heliconias, gerberas, roses, liliums and carnations.

Call 9394593 or 0917-8321352.



3 main elements showing the triangle

Main elements with helpers and fillers.
The helpers are positioned to
show a triangle in each group.

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

2nd national bonsai show May 19

THE PHILIPPINE Bonsai Society (PBSI) will hold its Second National Bonsai Open Exhibit and Competition at the Atrium, 2/L, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Shaw Blvd. cor. Edsa, Mandaluyong City, May 19-24.

PBSI president Bobby Gopiao said bonsai societies in Pangasinan, Batangas, Bulacan, Pampanga, Bataan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, Nueva Ecija, Cebu, Iloilo, Bacolod, Davao and others would participate.

The show will be formally opened by Ambeth Ocampo, chair of the National Commission on Culture and the Arts; Shangri-La Group of Companies president Tomas Zita; Rose Avanceña, founding president of PBSI; Kimi Cojuangco, wife of Rep. Mark Cojuangco, Pangasinan 5th district; and Taiwanese bonsai masters Lee Jong Hong and Xi Rong Chang.

Overall committee chairs are Yumie Gupit and Bobby Gopiao.

The schedule of events follows: until June 12, plant and garden bazaar with lectures and demonstrations, Shangri-La Plaza Mall's Shaw Boulevard entrance; and May 19-24, Second PBSI National Bonsai Open Exhibition and Competition with Suiseki Exhibit participated in by the National Stone Society of the Philippines (1 p.m.—Bonsai Critique by Taiwanese Lee Jong Hong and Xi Rong Chang; 4 p.m.—formal opening, Grand Atrium; book launching of "Bonsai and Suiseki... Trees and Stones in Harmony," 2/L).

Xi and Lee will hold a demo/lecture workshop, 1-4 p.m., May 20 and a bonsai clinic at 5-8 p.m. also at The Atrium.

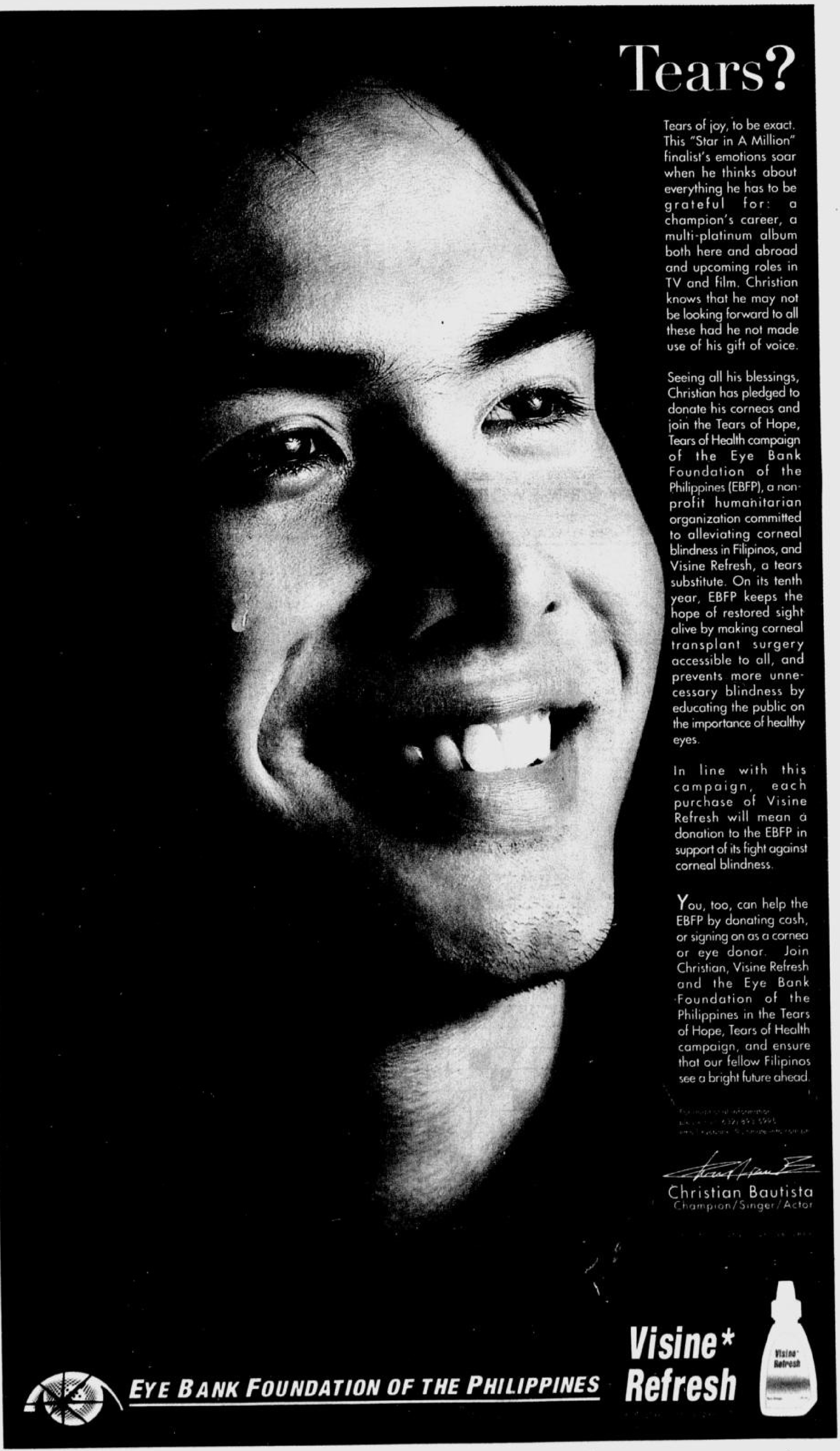
They will also give lectures, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., May 21. After the lecture, the first Bonsai Challenge 2005, an on-the-spot bonsai skills competition, will be held after the lecture.

Xi will give another lecture 10 a.m.—1 p.m., May 22. It will be followed by the launching of "The Bonsai and Suiseki Collection of Felcidad S. Gupit—A Commemorative Book Marking 30 Years of Love of Miniature Trees and Natural Stones." Gupit will also talk on stone appreciation. At 2:30—6:30 p.m., Lee will give another lecture.

At the commercial section, there will be lectures and demos May 19-24 on Feng Shui in the Garden by Chat Alejandro, Bouquet and Corsage Making by Flower Club Philippines members, Bonsai Basics by Poncevic Ceballos, and Bromeliad Culture by PJ Nepomuceno.

BONSAI
& SUISEKI
TREES & STONES... in HARMONY

BONSAI book to be launched in the show


Tears?

Tears of joy, to be exact. This "Star in A Million" finalist's emotions soar when he thinks about everything he has to be grateful for: a champion's career, a multi-platinum album both here and abroad and upcoming roles in TV and film. Christian knows that he may not be looking forward to all these had he not made use of his gift of voice.

Seeing all his blessings, Christian has pledged to donate his corneas and join the Tears of Hope, Tears of Health campaign of the Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines (EBFP), a non-profit humanitarian organization committed to alleviating corneal blindness in Filipinos, and Visine Refresh, a tears substitute. On its tenth year, EBFP keeps the hope of restored sight alive by making corneal transplant surgery accessible to all, and prevents more unnecessary blindness by educating the public on the importance of healthy eyes.

In line with this campaign, each purchase of Visine Refresh will mean a donation to the EBFP in support of its fight against corneal blindness.

You, too, can help the EBFP by donating cash, or signing on as a cornea or eye donor. Join Christian, Visine Refresh and the Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines in the Tears of Hope, Tears of Health campaign, and ensure that our fellow Filipinos see a bright future ahead.

Christian Bautista
Champion/Singer/Actor

EYE BANK FOUNDATION OF THE PHILIPPINES

Visine* Refresh

ANDREA Torres in a terno by Pepe Quitco

The FDAP once again played around with the terno for the Intramuros Flores de Mayo

JANNA Victoria, in a terno by Jontie Martinez, with escort Rafael Rosell

AIZA Marquez in Babang del Mundo, with JE Sison

FRANZ Ocampo in Edgar Allan, with Dino Kilates

# of flowers and cabbages

Photos by Mandy Navasero

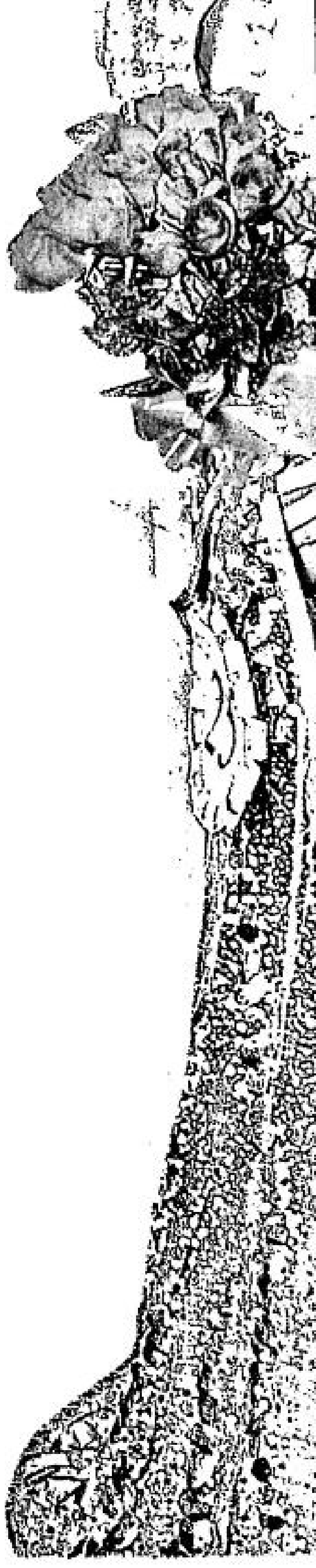
A RELIGIOUS event honoring the Virgin Mary, the Flores de Mayo has become a showcase of traditional Filipino fashion sometimes to the point that the religious dimension is glossed over, trivialized or altogether forgotten. Sometimes it becomes a mere parade of pretty young Filipinas, beauty queens and celebrities, who don elaborately beaded and sequined ternos and gowns—a catwalk event rather than a religious procession. Do these women ever bother to offer flowers to Our Lady? Or perhaps they seek to upstage the Blessed Mother so that they move heaven and earth to become unearthly apparitions in drag?

Perhaps that is why the Congregacion del Santissimo Nombre del Niño Jesus organizes the annual Flores de Mayo with the Fashion Designers Association of the Philippines (FDAP), Department of Tourism, City of Manila and Unilever. While maintaining the fashion potential of the celebration, the affair also ensures that the religious dimension of the festival is not compromised.

This year, the FDAP designs were worn by 60 young talents from ABS-CBN Talent Center. Of course, the carnival aspects remained, a concession to the show biz-crazy times. And some of the costumes were a tad too flowery, so that they seemed to have come from the cabbage patch, rather than the atelier. But again and again, the festival showed the ardor of the faith in tandem with the fervor of the creative imagination.

BEN FARRALES and Mellie Ablaza

ANNA Larrucea in Gener Gozum, Margarita Saludo in Ronaldo Arnaldo



KRISTINE Hermosa in Renee Salud

ALEX Pierson in Tony Galang

VANESSA Lorraine Gomez in Dennis Martin

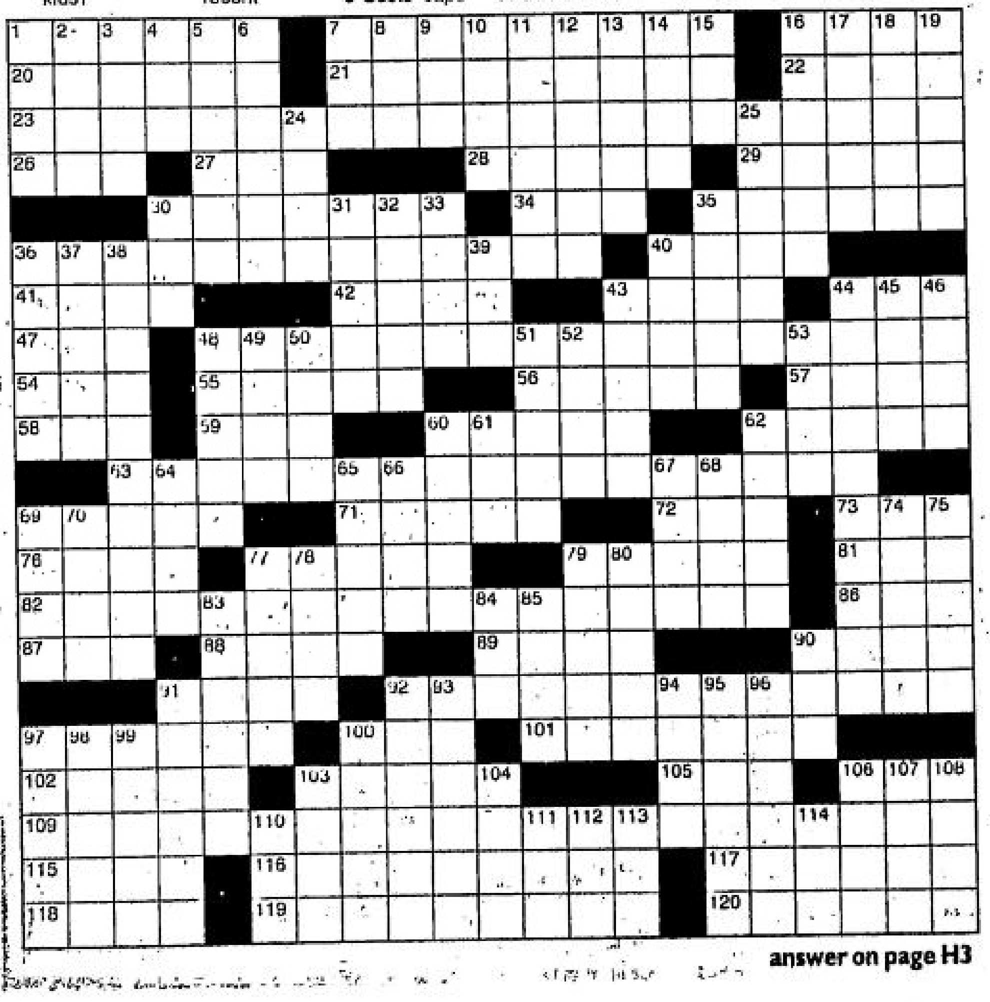
SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

CLOWNING

ACROSS
1 Choose
7 Not lopsided
16 Video game system
20 Baby bed
21 Story tellers
22 TV host before Carson
23 What the composer did for Santa?
26 Method: Abbr.
27 Suffix with cyan
28 "I don't buy that!"
29 S-shaped curves
30 Spoof singer Yankovic
34 Fleming or McKellen
35 Owl against forest fires
36 Why the composer turned down a job?
40 Fine shower
41 Eager
42 Up to the task
43 Hay unit
44 Alps, e.g.: Abbr.
47 Two, in Spain
48 What the composer did with his kids?
54 — out (barely make)
55 Unwritten tests
56 Ghostly
57 "There wasn't — eye in the house"
58 Moment
59 Opposite of ESE
60 Bali beauty
62 Non-studio film
63 What the composer did at the Olympics?
69 Stood up
71 New Zealand native
72 Enzyme suffix
73 Bad — (German spa)
76 Clubs, e.g.
77 Palm off
79 Inventor Howe
81 Tiny
82 Why the composer stopped trying?
86 Call — day
87 Language suffix
88 Foofaraw
89 Most recent
90 Molecule member
91 Log cutters
92 What the composer did while having salad?
97 Indian royals
100 Opposite of neg.
101 Mrs. — cow
102 "Maria —" (1941 hit)
103 Dirty, as a chimney
105 Daiquiri need
106 Sony Open org.
109 What the composer did for buying various gifts?
115 Birds' class
116 Spanish estates
117 Pelvic bone
118 Slacks securer
119 Opposing team
120 Privileged groups

DOWN
1 Phil of protest songs
2 Quarry
3 Scots' caps
4 Substance-banning org.
5 Past hits
6 Emend again
7 Ltd. cousin
8 Slangy refusal
9 "It's cold!"
10 Give — (care)
11 TV collie
12 In addition
13 "— is an island"
14 Bird crop
15 Suffix with heir
16 Faucet
17 Made lighter
18 Stares
19 La-di-da
24 Houston hockey player
25 Untie
30 Roll up tightly
31 Factotum
32 Eastern bishops
33 Easter flower
35 Oft-quoted Oscar
36 Styx site
37 Conjure up
38 Smart decision
39 Final letter
40 Question of permission
43 Uncovers
44 Interfere in
45 Garr of "Mr. Mom"
46 — terrier (Scottish dog)
48 "This Is — Do It" (1995 hit)
49 Cube creator Rubik
50 Chess piece
51 British India's capital
52 Ship's tiller
53 Yemen's capital
60 Soup liquid
61 Corn unit
62 That is, to Caesar
64 "— perpetua" (Idaho's motto)
65 Essential — acids
66 Strong woody fiber
67 Postal delivery
68 Morales of "N.Y.P.D. Blue"
69 Court great Arthur
70 Regrets
74 Copycat's cry
75 Sordid
77 Moves like a river
78 Chances
79 Ford flop
80 Do not disturb
83 Beehive Stater
84 In the manner of
85 19-nation gp.
90 Cooling systems, for short
91 Least loco
92 — & the Blowfish
93 Actress Rolle
94 Org. for seniors
95 Sea outing
96 Church songbook
97 Cleanup clinic
98 Advil rival
99 Gem
100 Doggy
103 Baseball card figure
104 Cravings
106 Component
107 Sticky stuff
108 Gifts for the needy
110 E'en if
111 Roman 401
112 Contained
113 Ending of sugars
114 AT&T alternative



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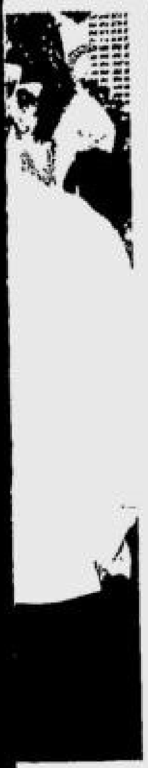

MICHELLE Arciaga in Milo Afable, with Michael Agassi

MARLA Geraldine Boyd in John Abdul, with OJ Decena

CARLA Humphries Loren in Edna Encarnacion, with Janus del Prado

JILL Yulo in Tony Cajucom with Baron Geisler

HAZEL Ann Mendoza in Jerome Ang

PAW Diaz in Edgar Madamba

Tears?

This young lady's soul soars high with music. Rachel strikes home with heartfelt and emotion-filled song renditions, making people feel, as she herself feels, the sounds of life. Claiming glory in local and international singing competitions, she proves that music is simply in her heart. And this is truly what makes her the ultimate champion.

Moved by the melody of life, Rachel has joined the Tears of Hope, Tears of Health campaign of the Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines (EBFP), a non-profit humanitarian organization committed to alleviating corneal blindness in Filipinos, and Visine Refresh, a tears substitute. On its tenth year, EBFP keeps the hope of restored sight alive by making corneal transplant surgery accessible to all and prevents more unnecessary blindness by educating the public on the importance of healthy eyes.

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Rachel Ann Go
Champion Singer

EYE BANK FOUNDATION OF THE PHILIPPINES

Visine* Refresh

JAIME Martinez, Alejandro Maldonado, Mellie Ablaza, Zury Rios Montt de Weller, Julio Lowenthal, Edgar Arevalo

AMBASSADOR Isabel Wilson and Swiss Ambassador Lise Favre

Song and dance for a good cause

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

By Amiga

IT ISN'T OFTEN that diplomats get a chance to let their hair down and relax. But at the Spouses of the Heads of Mission benefit hosted by Spanish Ambassador **Ignacio Sagaz** and his wife **Aurora** at their residence, relax they did. Ambassador **Sagaz** performed to the Bee Gee's "Staying Alive," together with Canadian Ambassador **Peter Sutherland** and Venezuelan Charge d'Affaires Jose Clavijo. They brought the house down.

INDIAN Ambassador Navrekha Sharma and Irmgard Krepela

The ladies were not to be outdone. The surprise of the evening was husky-voiced emcee, **Debra Landey,** in a blond wig, doing a duet of Dancing Queen with Swedish Ambassador **Annika Markovic.** The disguises were so good no one recognized Consul **Fausto Preysler** as Elvis and **Marit Yuchengco,** all dolled up a la Twiggy.

All the hard work and perspiration produced more than a million for various charities including Gawad Kalinga, Hospicio de San Jose, Zonta Club of Makati and the devastated provinces of Aurora and Quezon.

Kudos to the ladies for a great job that everyone enjoyed.

Dazzling

Trust **Nedy Tantoco** to throw a razzmatazz banquet-cum-fashion show to welcome **James Ferragamo** at the Westin Plaza's Harbor Garden tent. The young man, grandson of the famous Salvatore, is handsome enough to be a matinee idol. He has a twin called—you guessed it—**Salvatore.**

JAMES Ferragamo with Italian Ambassador and Sra. Clara Colesanti

Impeccably organized, the models strutted in, cool in Ferragamo's summer collection numbers that were packed and ready to go on to the next Asian destination as soon as the dessert plates were whisked away.

'Auf wiedersehen'

It's time to say good-bye again, this time to Austrian Ambassador **Christian** and Mme. Irmgard Krepela, who've done more to popularize the waltz at the yearly Johann Strauss Ball than all the debutantes put together.

Ten hostesses, namely **Melly Ablaza, Fortune Ledesma, Evie Costa, Alice Guerrero, Chit Gohu, Letty Syquia, Helen Ong, Nini Layug, Olga Martel** and Marietta Holmgren, threw a **despedida** lunch for the elegant Irmgard at the Mandarin Hotel. All the speeches echoed the sentiment not *Adios* but *Hasta Pronto.*

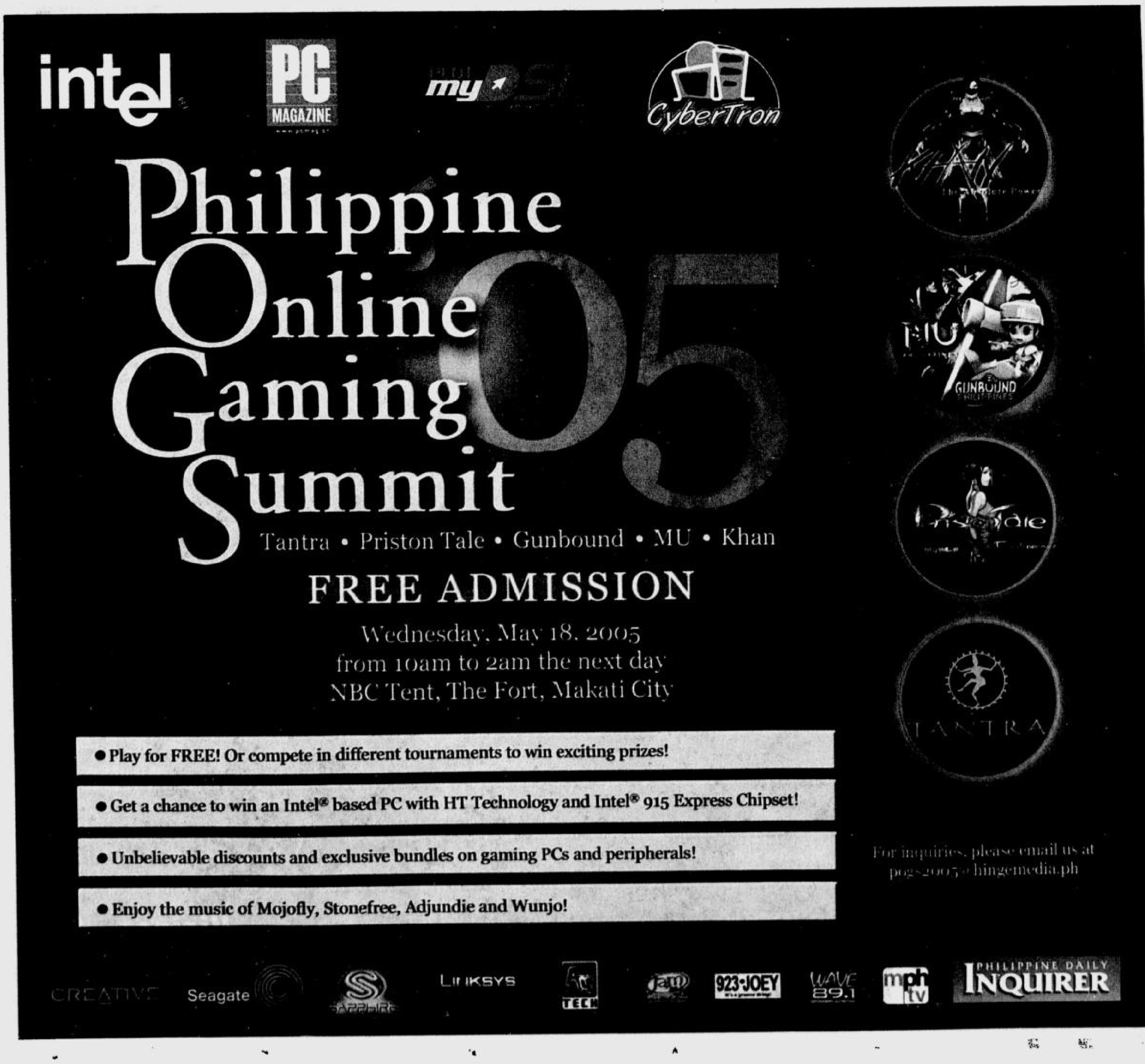
Guatemalan guests

A five-member Guatemalan parliamentary delegation, led by Alejandro Maldonado, attended the recent 112th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), in Manila. Honorary consul of Guatemala, hostess with the mostest, **melly Ablaza,** with her ever loving **Louie,** hosted a sit-down dinner at their residence. Talented son **Junjun** outdid himself with embroidered *piña* covering the table and orchids cascading from three-foot tall crystal vases.

Thank heaven smoking's gone out of style or the tablecloths wouldn't have stood a chance.

THE BEE GEES! Ignacio Sagaz, Jose Clavijo and Peter Sutherland

THE SUPREMES! Agnes de Kok, Jo-Lynne Sutherland and Aurora Sagaz



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Banks go green but not the color of money

First of two parts

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

BANKS don't cause pollution, so why do they have to follow environmental regulations?

That's what financial institutions like banks used to think. But now it has become apparent that the financial sector has an important role to play in keeping our environment clean and intact. One could even say, it's in the front line of defense.

A forum on just this topic, "Greening the Financial Sector," was organized recently by the Asia Pacific Roundtable for Sustainable Consumption and Production (APRFCP) and the Association of Development Financing Institutions in Asia and the Pacific (ADFIAP). Speakers were leaders of the country's top financial institutions.

To the ordinary environmentalist present, it was a crash course on economic environmentalese. Banking terminology was used for environmental issues that many environmentalists present had not heard before. Though there was no talk of tree planting or conservation of species, we were to learn they actually were doing that, even if indirectly.

We heard such phrases as "Environment Due Diligence" and "Equator Principle" and the more familiar "windows of credit," all having to do with the principles of "clean and green."

It used to be, said Ambassador Jesus Tambunting, Planters Bank CEO and chair, that the banking sector felt it was unaffected by the "greening of industry." After all, it did not pollute the environment in any phase of its operations. But it had become very evident in recent years that it must face those environmental issues when setting up its infrastructures and operations in the economic system.

"In lending," he said, "the environmental risks of a borrower can also become the risks of the bank." What risks can a bank possibly face? Well, quite a lot, he pointed out, particularly those creating "direct financial relevance" to a bank through litigation and fines, demonstrating compliance or defending against charges, decline in value of assets (ex., due to contamination), inadequate or non-existent insurance coverage, damage to corporate image leading to a loss of trust and diminished market acceptance and, in some extreme cases, going out of business, plus a lot more.

"Studies have established," he said, "that the route to higher income is also a path to better environmental quality." He cited the dictum that the environment tended to deteriorate as a country developed but, conversely, as environmental quality improved, so did income.

New mindset

To Diwa C. Gunigundo, assistant governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, this comparatively new role of the finance sector required the creation of "a new mindset and a new culture whose message is that the environment matters and it matters a great deal."

The banking sector's role in the greening concept "is anchored on its potential to promote the principles of sustainable development through its distinct role as financial intermediary." It could do this by "adopting ecologically sound risk management practices, investing in products and services that are environment-friendly and incorporating 'environment due diligence' practices."

Banks could also help propagate the environment ethic among their corporate clients by a simple act, like identifying and advising clients about the economic costs of pollution and the advantage of adopting cleaner production technology.

And what benefits do banks get out of eco-efficient financing? Credit and operational risks will be reduced inasmuch as clients whose projects are exposed to ecological hazards could encounter disturbances if not total shut-down of their business leading to failure to meet their financial obligations. Among the steps a bank can take is implementation of sound environmental safety nets.

Greening has gained importance in the light of the operations of leading financial institutions abroad. Since 2001, institutions in the United States and Europe have incorporated sustainable development in their lending operations, implementing company-wide management systems, even publishing environmental reports.

Banks now see the benefits of going green internally, reducing energy and paper consumption and limiting waste production while promoting recycling. They have also began to promote socially responsible investment (SRI) products such as mutual and money market funds for such issues as corporate environmental practices.

This is supported by the Kyoto Protocol that addresses problems related to an economy dependent on carbon-based fuels, among others. The Philippines is among 128 signatories of the Protocol.

The speakers also explained the Environment Due Diligence and Equator Principle.

E-mail the author at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com

Financial institutions realize the environmental risks of a borrower can also become their risks

GIFT TO GINA DE VENECIA

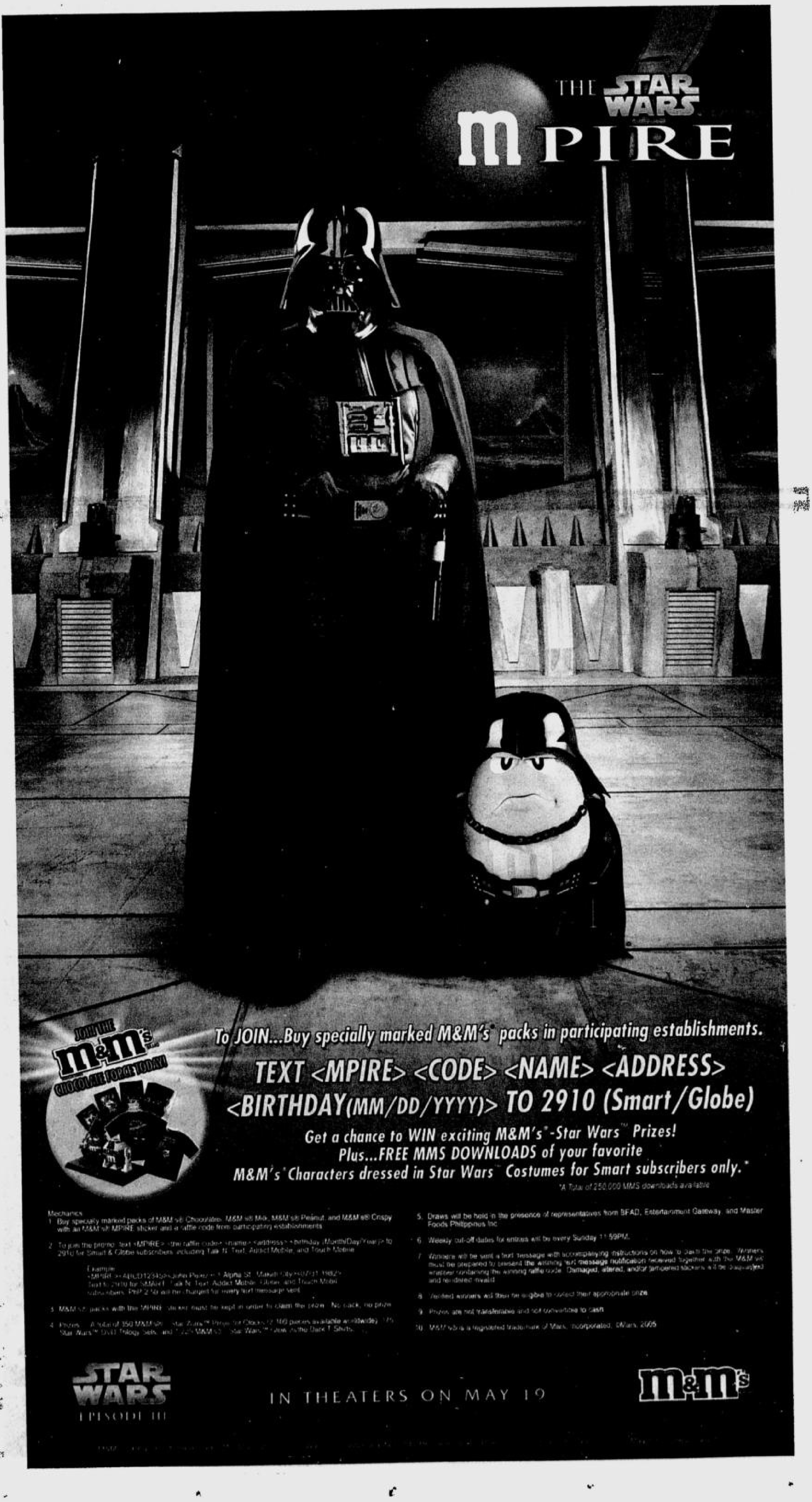
THIS POPULAR photo of three heroic figures of the Catholic Church—Pope John Paul II, Mother Teresa and Padre Pio of Pietrelcina (inset)—was given by Speaker Ferdinando Pier Cassini of Italy's Parliament to Speaker Jose De Venecia and Gina De Venecia in a luncheon hosted for President Macapagal-Arroyo when she attended the papal funeral last month. Two days later, Ms. De Venecia, Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman, Philippine Ambassador to Italy Philip Lhuiller and Marot Moreno witnessed a miracle in Naples: the liquefying of the blood of St. Patrizia, who died 1,600 years ago.

Ikebana seminar

SINCE May is the month of flowers, enhance your enjoyment of fresh blooms by making your own flower arrangement. Ikebana professor and plant art expert Serapion S. Metilla is conducting a seminar-workshop on Ikebana flower arrangement, 1-6 p.m. daily, May 25-29, Mett's Plant Art, King Louis Garden Center, Manila Seedling Bank cor. Edsa and Quezon Ave., Quezon City.

Activities include: Day 1—Ikebana styles, Moribana and Shoka, with hands-on; Day 2—Western style: All-around or one-sided and L-shaped; Day 3—Other Western styles: crescent shape and Hogarth line, discussion on flower shop operation and sourcing of materials; Day 4—Free styles, buffet or party centerpieces and garland making; and Day 5—Corsage making, bridal bouquet-making and other wedding arrangements.

Registration is until May 20 at the Flower Mart, Seedling Bank. Materials will be provided for the hands-on including scissors, flower vases, floral foams, flowers, foliage, floral wires, floral tapes and ribbons among others. Snacks, hand-outs and a certificate are included. Call 4352479, 9394593 or 0917-8321352.



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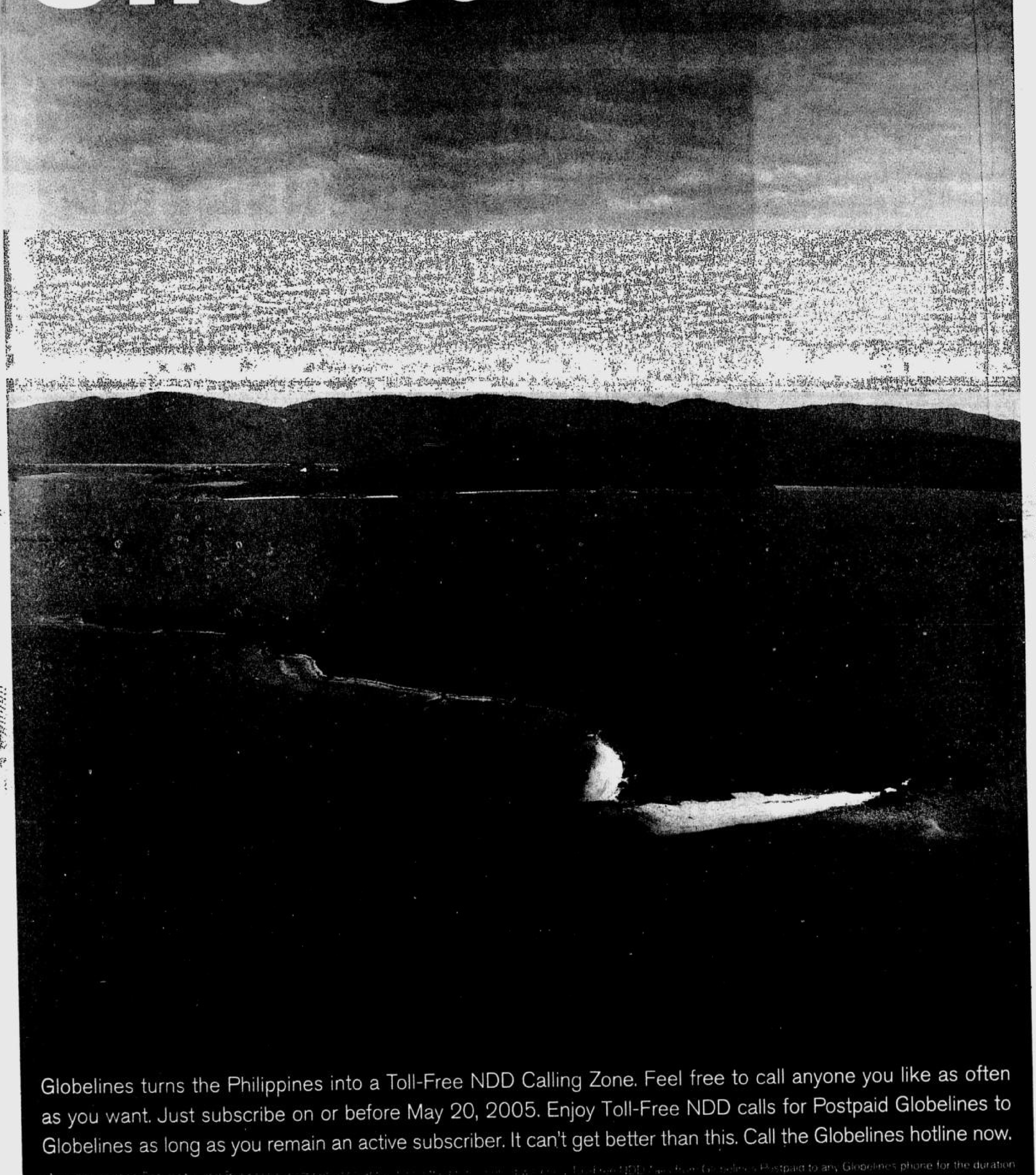

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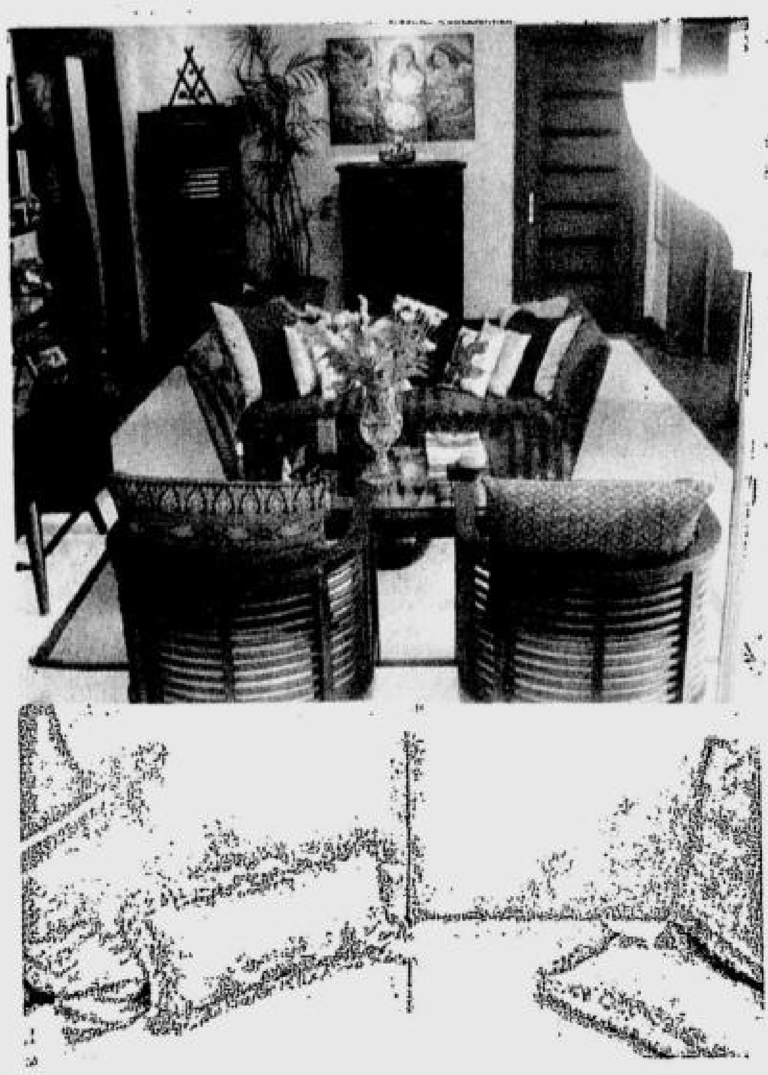

THE HUGE living room has two sitting areas to accommodate guests during parties the Romeros hold regularly.

Haven of art and greens

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

> Mikee and Sheila Romero's dream home serves as a giant canvas for paintings by Manansala, Ocampo, Luz, Legaspi and other noted Filipino artists

IT took Mikee and Sheila Romero sometime before they were finally able to move into their dream home, a contemporary, two-story affair in an exclusive village in Quezon City. And soon after they made the big move with their three kids (the Romeros later had a fourth child), the couple developed a shared love for artworks by Filipino masters.

The house designed by architect Alfred Weineke has become a veritable art gallery, its white walls acting as giant canvases for paintings by the likes of Manansala, Ocampo, Luz, Legaspi, Kiukok, and more contemporary names such as BenCab, Austria, Navarro, Cacnio and Blanco. Not a single room in this house, from the twin living rooms to the den, is devoid of paintings.

Colors and textures

A friend of Mikee unwittingly introduced him to art collection. Unlike many collectors, the Romeros are motivated to acquire a painting not because of its intrinsic value. Their primary motivation, they say, is a work's play of colors and textures. Of course, it has become an added bonus that noted painters did most of the pieces.

"When I paid my friend a visit," says Mikee, "I saw a painting of him and his family by noted portraitist Ephraim Samson. I also wanted one done featuring my family. While waiting for Samson's availability, my friend gave me several books on paintings. That gradually opened my mind to it."

Sheila's introduction to Filipino painters happened much earlier after her mom, who's also into art collection, gave her a painting by Leynes. It now hangs in a corner of the dining area. The interest didn't catch on, however, as she became too occupied with motherhood and the demands of running a restaurant. She has since moved on and plans to open a lifestyle store in Makati with her sister.

Now, "my husband and I decide on every piece we acquire," she says. "Nudes and paintings with dark or scary images have no place in our home."

Since Mikee, chief executive officer of Harbour Centre, and Sheila were too busy to shop around for artworks, they sought the services of art dealer Bong Versoza. Unlike conventional art galleries, Versoza owns and manages a "traveling" art gallery called Choice Expression (tel. 660-8543). Instead of customers having to brave the traffic to

HAVEN/H2

A CORNER of Mikee's garden featuring his bamboo and bonsai collections

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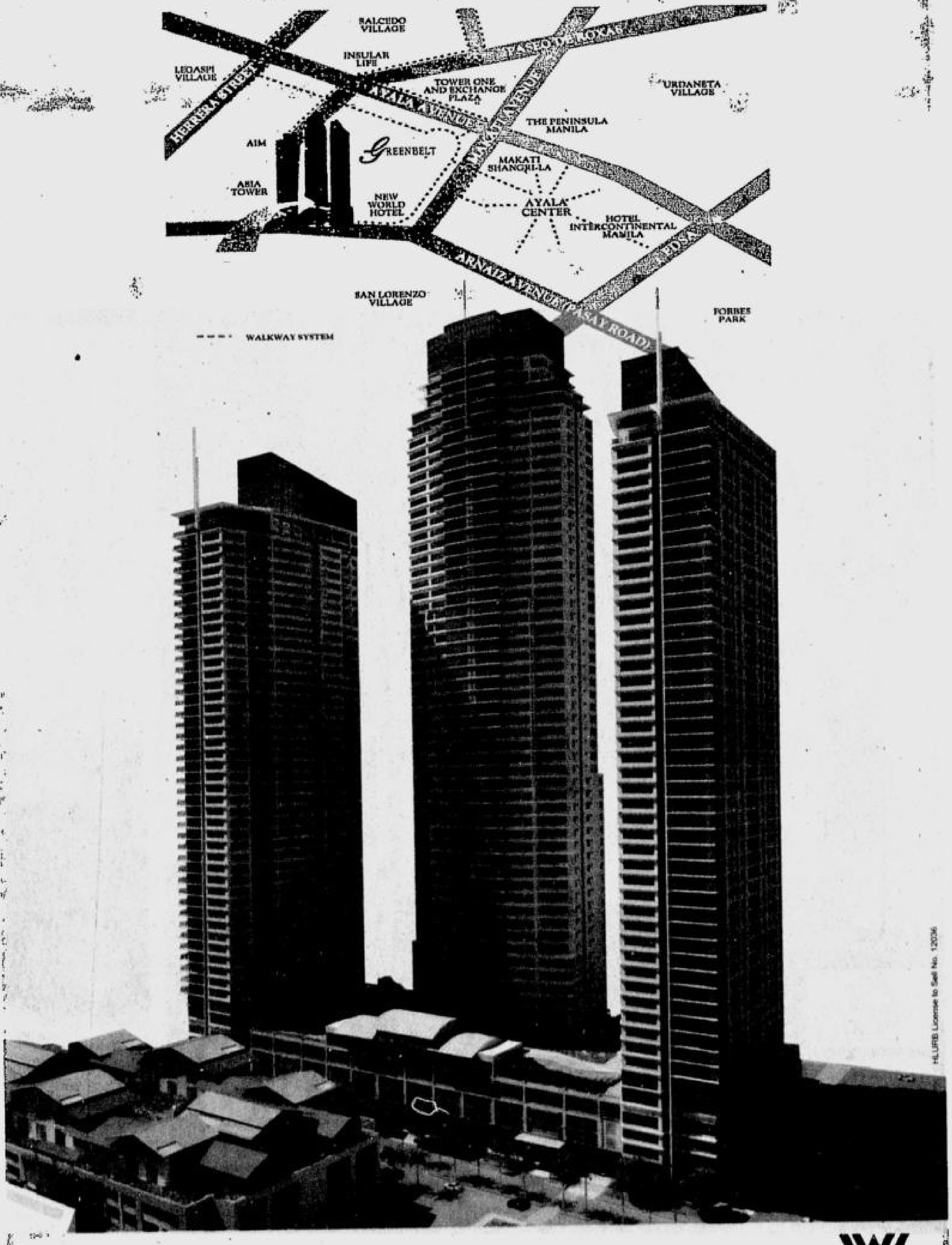

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AN H.R. Ocampo by a sitting area in the first floor

Haven of art and greens

From page H1

browse through artworks, Versoza takes the pieces to them.

Elegant, low-maintenance

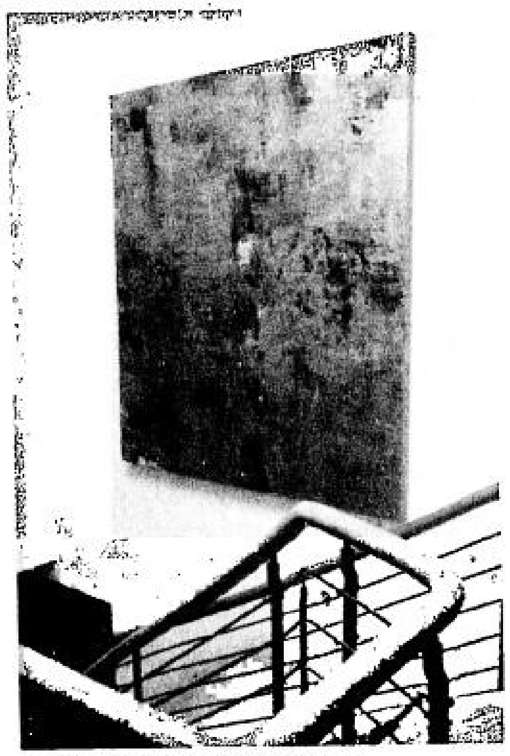
Aside from choosing plain white walls, the couple went for elegant yet low-maintenance flooring made from various natural stones: white limestone from India for the living room and foyer; sandblasted tiles from Italy for the bathroom; and black slates for the outdoor area. They chose *narra* planks for the staircase and four bedrooms upstairs. The massive, 8-ft-tall double door is also made of *narra* with *kamagong* trimmings.

"We want the paintings and certain key furniture pieces to shine," says Sheila. "When it comes to accent pieces, almost every item in the house has a story. We bought most of them from abroad. Most of them aren't really expensive, but they hold special memories of our travels."

Filipino designers designed most of their furniture pieces except for furniture fabrics by Jim Thompson and certain antiques, which were sourced from Old Asia and Noble House. Sheila, the clever homemaker that she is, has found new uses for old, expensive stuff. A pair of 18th-century cabinets from China, for instance, now holds photo albums and coffee table books.

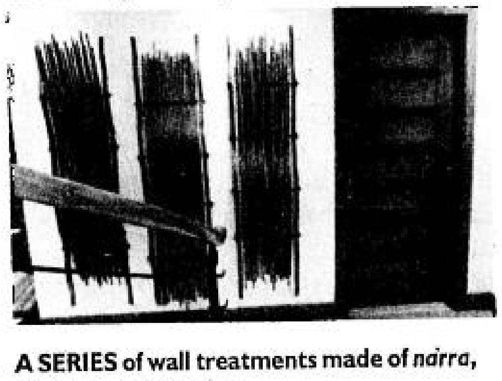
TEN-SEATER dining table in crocodile and bamboo veneer came from Borders.

AN OPPOSITE view of the "twin" living rooms



A HUGE abstract by Ivan Acuña

SHEILA and Mikee Romero make the most out of a lazy Saturday morning.



A SERIES of wall treatments made of *narra*, *kamagong* and *molave*

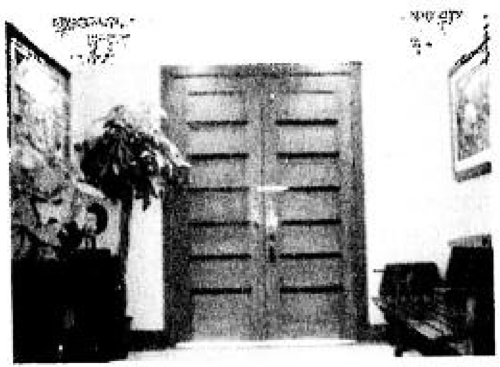
"Mikee and I are quite lucky since our kids are so disciplined," she adds. "No one has yet to break a piece since the bigger ones look after the smaller ones."

Minute details

Not only did they pay attention to the big picture, the couple also took into consideration minute details. Bathroom fixtures, for instance, are of the best quality with some pieces designed by Philippe Starck.

Both living room and dining area open out to the garden, thanks to several glass-paneled

HAVEN/ H3



HUGE double door made of *narra* and *kamagong* is actually 8-ft tall.

SLIDING glass panels by Kenneth and Mock are constant fixtures in the Romero home.

ANTIQUE drum table is sandwiched by an antique pair of cabinets from China. They now hold photo albums that Sheila painstakingly put together.

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A CIRCULAR etagere filled with photos of family members and a glass-topped coffee table where souvenirs from the couple's travels abound

Haven of art. . .

From page H2

doors that come with soundproof and waterproof wood-veneer frames by Kenneth and Mock.

If indoor areas are Sheila's domain, the outdoors happen to be Mikee's turf. In fact, he himself helped design the garden, which features, among others, his bonsai collection and several varieties of bamboo from Japan, China and Southeast Asia.

On top of the swimming pool, the grass-carpeted backyard features a koi pond filled with some of his huge, prize-winning fish.

"I've been into collecting koi (fish) long before I became interested in paintings," he says. "One of them, in fact, won the grand prize in a Tokyo competition several years ago."

Mikee considers the garden as his sanctuary. This explains the special attention he gave the area during its design and construction. Aside from designing the black slate formation, he directed workers to save a number of fruit-bearing trees such as chico, mango and even coconut within the property.

For lack of a better term, Mikee describes the place as a "Japanese tropical" garden.

"I always make it a point to start my day in the garden," he says. "Rustling water and chirping birds relax me. If my schedule allows, we spend the early part of the evening in the garden as well."

It seems despite the range and variety of paintings the Romeros have, the best artwork is still the one drawn by the hand of nature.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

Back to school for special kids

MARYRIDGE School is a school for special children located in BF Homes, Parañaque. It is a second home for pre-adolescent and adolescent students with exceptional conditions like autism, Down Syndrome, ADHD, mental retardation, cerebral palsy, etc.

In special education, "acceptance" is a very big word. Special schools try their best to create an environment where students feel a sense of belonging and where they do not feel different from the rest.

"Initially, it was not really our main thrust to create such a warm, accepting environment for the children. It happened naturally, perhaps because they are of the same age group, the age when, just like regular people, they look for belonging, friends and fun," explains Maryridge School president Gilbert Y. Leonor, also the father of 18-year-old student Jamie.

For another parent, who requested anonymity, it came as the answer to her prayers.

"My son was already becoming too big for his school because he would be 17 soon, and we were looking for a school to send him to. We went to church one day and saw the signage for the school because Maryridge is located beside the Presentation of Child Jesus Church in BF Homes. Obviously, it was an answered prayer," she says.

Today, her son, who has been diagnosed with autism, belongs to the prevocational class. He interacts well with his classmates mainly because they belong to the same group in terms of age, height and other physical characteristics.

Employment opportunities

This school has created a niche of sorts in specials education. While there are a lot of special schools for young children, there are a fewer for older kids. What happens then is that parents are at a loss where to bring them next. Some are forced to go into private tutorial which defeats the purpose because they cannot interact with other kids. On the other hand, some are enrolled in regular schools which are not equipped to deal with special kids.

Catering to older special children thus inspired Maryridge School to shift to a more functional curriculum where children not only learn academics but also adapt well to their environment through learning practical life skills such as food preparation, taking care of themselves, safety, handling money, and vocational skills such as crafts making, sewing, baking and others.

In its program for pre-adolescent special children, Maryridge School incorporates not just shelter workshop, but also actual work in disabled-friendly companies. The adolescent special children are also paid salaries for their work.

This summer, Maryridge School extends this tact with a summer program. The program for adolescent special children (from 12 years old and above) will include training in practical life skills, leisure activities and actual work activities. Call 8291871 or 0917-5208313. Visit Maryridge School at 64 F. Cruz St., BF Parañaque.

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The night is perfect.

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He knows that Samantha loves dining al fresco.

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gets ready to pop the question. He stares into

her light grey eyes, brushes his hand against hers,

and reaches into his pocket.

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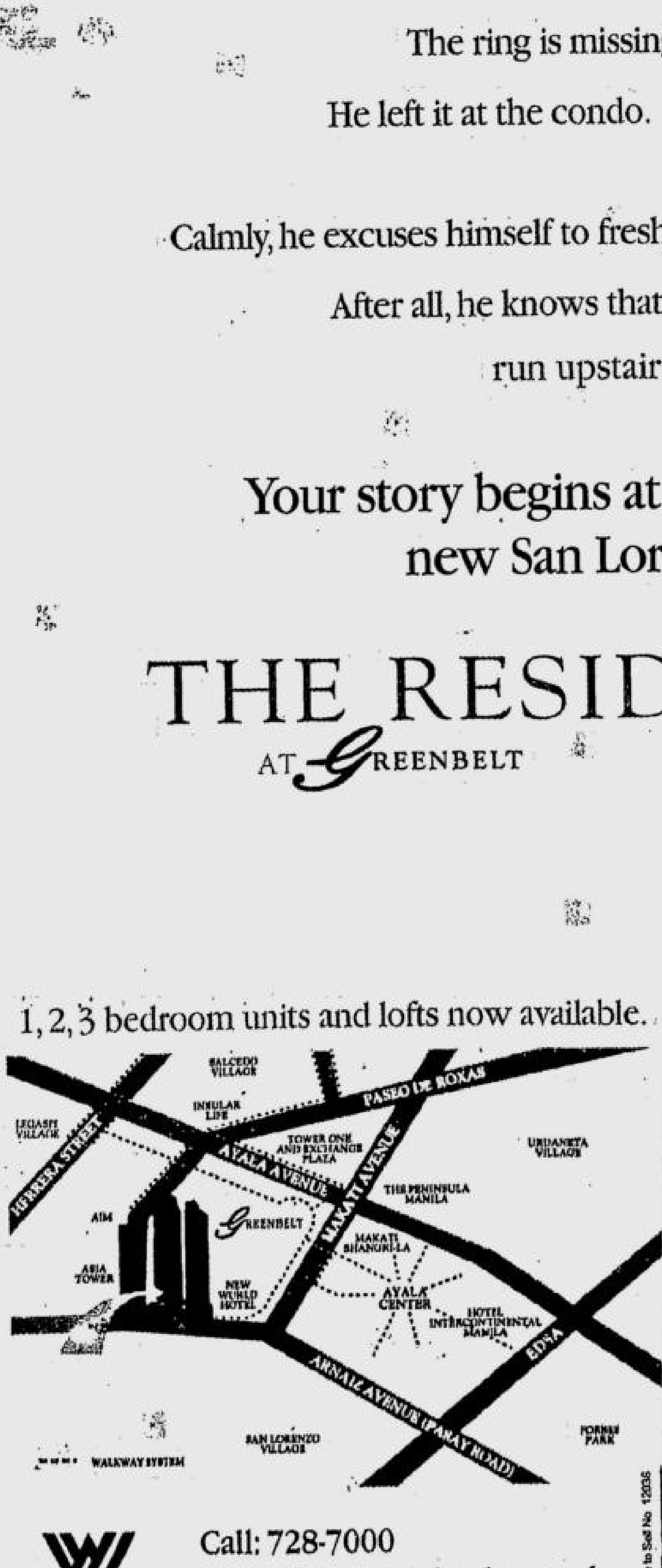

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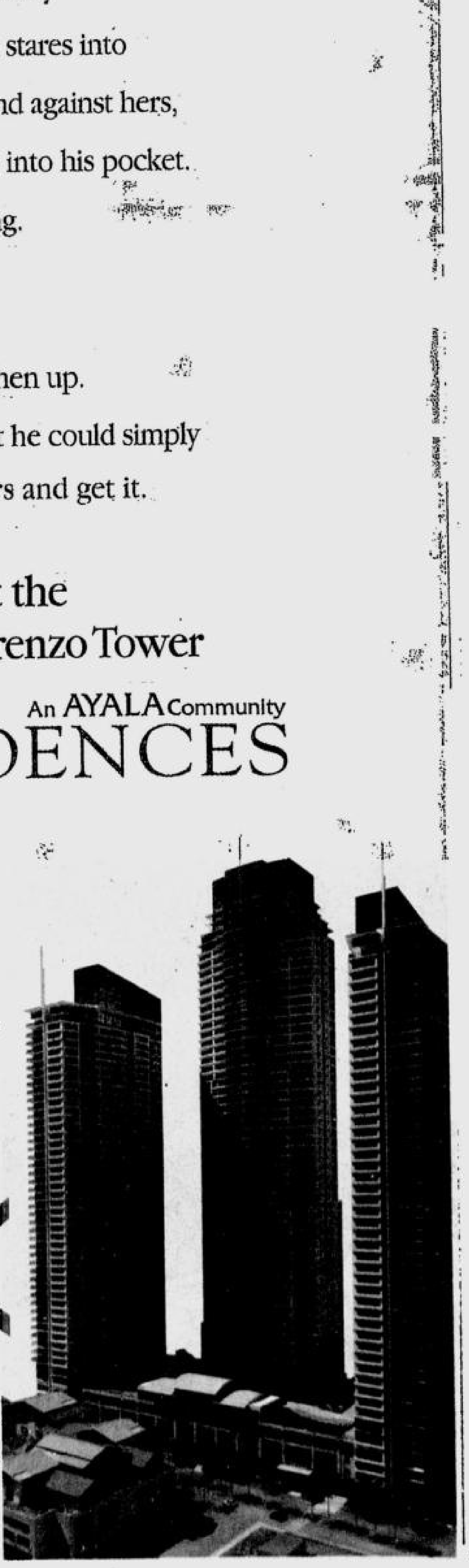
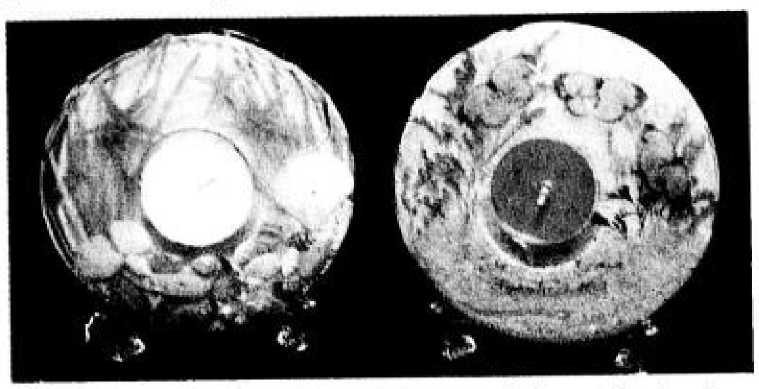


BALAY Kandila first started making candles in an old kitchen in a home in Tandang Sora, QC.



CANDLES that double as decor, with real seashells, starfish, beach sand, butterflies, etc.

That sweet romantic glow

THEIR unique unity candles draw many would-be couples into their modest shop in QC.

> For Balay Kandila, candles are the key to bringing magic and romance to a trite and predictable wedding setup

Text by Anne A. Jambora
Photos by Mitch Mauricio

LIGHTING sets the mood for any occasion. For Balay Kandila, wedding production designers, candles are the key to bringing magic and romance to a trite and predictable setup.

Arrange, for instance, a winding trail of 2,000 flickering candles toward the reception area—literally a backbreaking task for anyone assigned to do the job—and immediately guests will be transported to a charming, dreamlike evening.

Candles, in fact, make up the best table centerpieces, surrounded by a variety of colorful blooms as mere accents to the show. For no matter the lovely arrangement of flowers, only appropriate lighting can make the blossoms glow with stunning radiance.

"We incorporate lighting into our design. We go for the overall look and give them the total experience, especially if couples have themes. Clients usually come to us for our candles, and realize we offer so much more," says Tisha Rosales, co-founder of Balay Kandila (tels. 4149392, 4163691 or 0917-6437352/3698851; visit www.balaykandila.com; or e-mail mail@balaykandila.com).

GEL-BASED candles with real blooms .

CEILING drapes and ha

Tasteful alternatives

Balay Kandila is now known for pulling off tasteful alternative weddings to a new breed of brides and grooms who want to break away from the traditional. These are would-be couples that opt for the dramatic, choosing themes that best suit their personalities—shell themes for beach bums, celestial dreams for the starry-eyed, New York themes replete with the Statue of Liberty for travelers, Zen themes for the minimalists and, a couple of times, black themes with black linens as motif. The possibilities are endless.

But that wasn't always the case. When the company started six years ago, Tisha and husband Ronald plunked down P2,000 to start their candle-making business. Since people then only used candles on their altars or during special occasions like All Souls' Day, the couple realized they could only earn so much from something that took a whole lot of effort to make.

The Rosaleses folded the business and began melting unsold candles, using cans of sodas, sardines, milk, etc., as molds, before promptly leaving them in one corner to collect dust. And then a florist friend sought out their help to accent her buds during one of those bridal fairs. Much to the couple's surprise, people actually took notice of their candles.

"*Lumakas ang loob namin. May ganun na* market *pala.* At that time we even had no idea that fairs were venues to sell stuff," says Ronald.

UNITY candles that bear the couple's photos

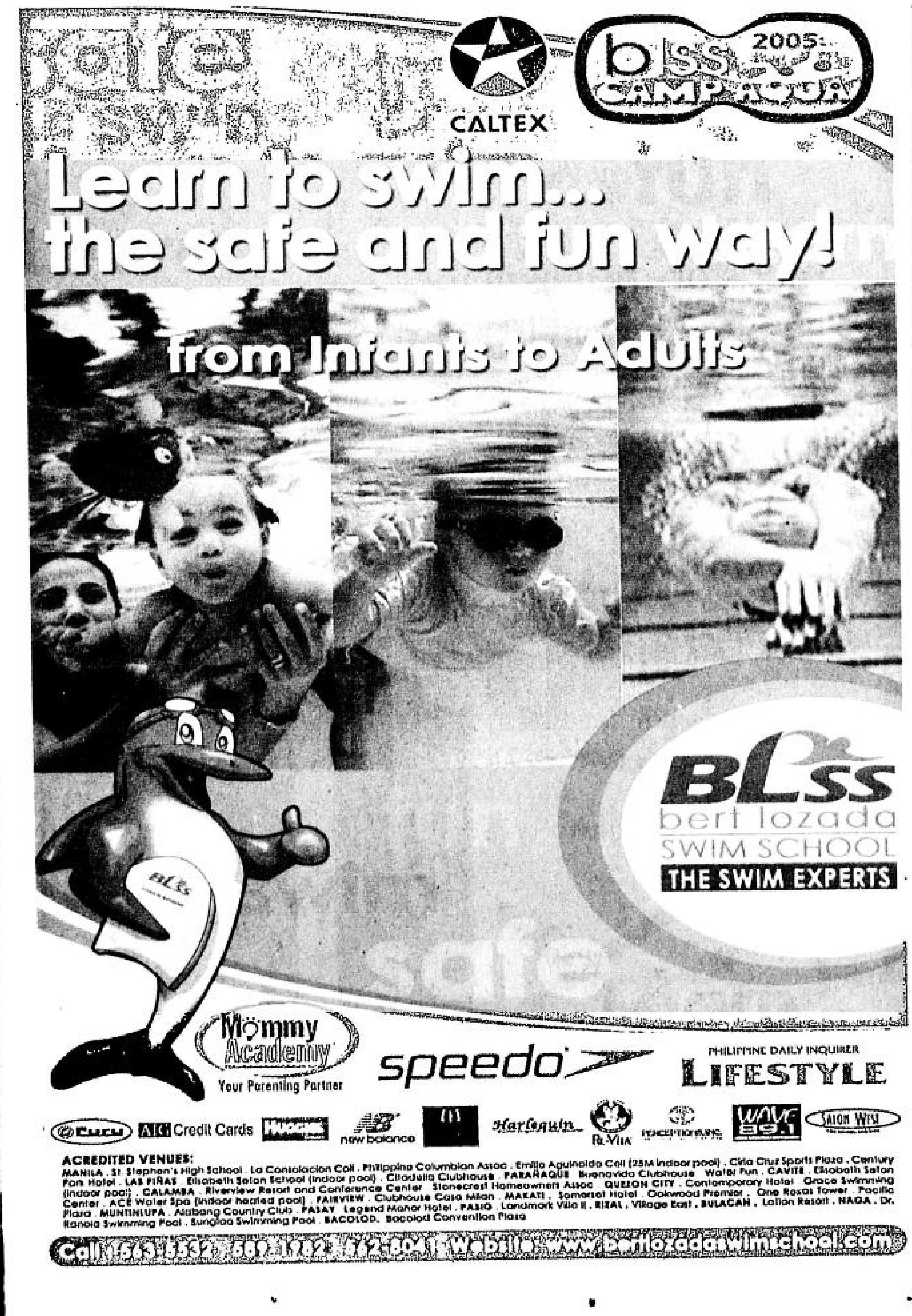
They never made a sale, but a wedding coordinator who saw their candles asked if they could help brighten up a reception she was doing. The rest, as they say, is history.

High profile

This company has since designed themes for many high-profile personalities and celebrities, including the weddings of Cesar Montano and Sunshine Cruz, Christopher de Leon and Sandy Andolong, Tintin Bersola and Julius Babao.

From ceiling drapes to backdrops, from centerpieces to photo lamps, candles are

THE BRIDAL couple's table. Many now want to break away from the traditional wedding setup.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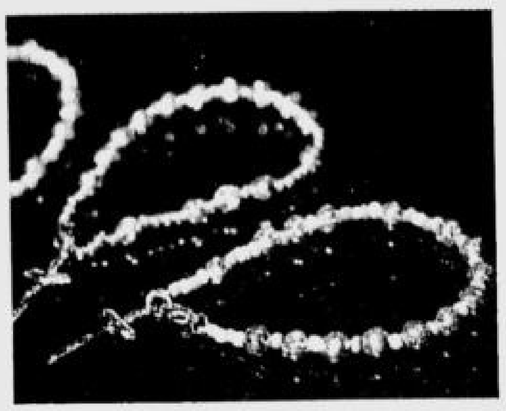
THE CELESTIAL theme



ROSARY beads as wedding souvenirs (above); over a thousand luminaries light the way toward this wedding reception (left)

ADDITIONAL PHOTOS COURTESY OF BALAY KANDILA

nging lamps add drama to this wedding reception.

cleverly employed when working on each theme. It was, after all, the candles that started it all. There are gel-based candles with real fruits, flowers, fruits and flowers, seashells, butterflies (those that didn't survive in butterfly farms) and more.

There's a gel-based candle in a long, slim crystal vase that perfectly preserves a single red rose offered by a client's boyfriend when he popped the question. There's also a unity candle with a delicate, hand-painted and hand-etched reproduction (with permission, of course) of a painting by the late National Artist Ang Kiukok.

"We know our materials only too well by now—what burns fast, what produces a wonderful glow, what wicker to use," Ronald says.

And that's for the candles alone.

No boundaries

The imagination for wedding décor has no boundaries, and the Rosaleses are willing to squeeze their creative juices when couples insist on a theme. Tisha says that as long as it's not a put-on theme, the biggest challenge is putting together the entire production seamlessly without compromising the solemnity of the event.

"A lot of them still come from a typical mindset, so we talk to them and present a few ideas. Only then will they begin to speak about what they really think is their dream wedding," Tisha says.

Some wedding productions even run like Broadway musicals. A groom once insisted on "flying" toward the guests while singing a love song to his bride. Very doable, says Ronald, but could his family, which included a number of grandaunts and grandparents, be able to take in all the excitement?

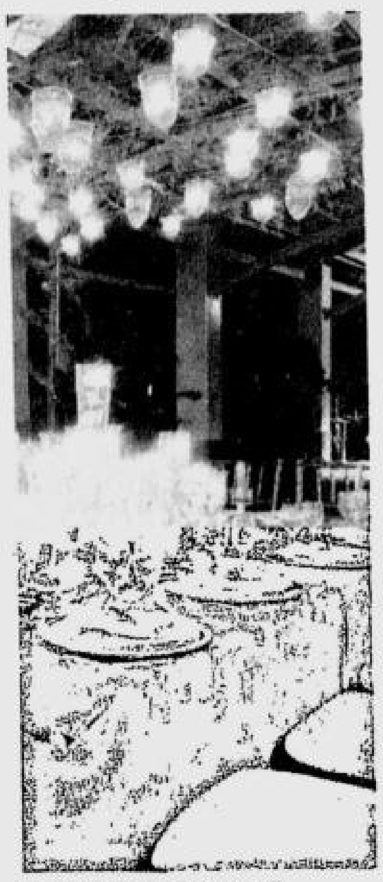
"*Baka magsigawan ang mga tao dahil matatakot baka mabagsak ka,*" he recalls saying.

Expanding from candles to table centerpieces to backdrops to souvenirs, Balay Kandila now extends its services to TV shows, commercials, corporate events, stages, etc. Weddings, however, still make up 80 percent of its clients. Out-of-town projects are also being requested all the way from nearby Baguio to far-off Palawan.

To make things easier for its busy clients, the company can also recommend florists, bands, sound system suppliers, coordinators, etc., from low- to high-end services. There are no packages, as designs always evolve around a budget. For a minimum budget of P30,000, however, would-be couples can start building on their ideal wedding day activities.

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph

HAND-ETCHED and hand-painted reproduction of a painting by the late National Artist Ang Kiukok



THE CANDLES say it all.

It's 5 in the afternoon,
and Maria finds herself on the stationary bike,
completely trapped in the third chapter of her new novel.
Ramon, struggling to keep his balance on the stepper
is going on his 29th minute.
Not bad for a 65 year old couple, on their daily gym ritual,
at their condominium, right in the middle of Greenbelt.

Suddenly, their grandchildren,
rush across the Podium and burst into the gym.
"I want to swim Lolo!", screams Luisa the 4 year old.
"We're hungry Lola!", shout the rest. "Let's go down for pizza!"

They look at each other and smile.
Maria whispers, "You do realize that we're
the most popular grandparents on the planet,
don't you Ramon?" He agrees.

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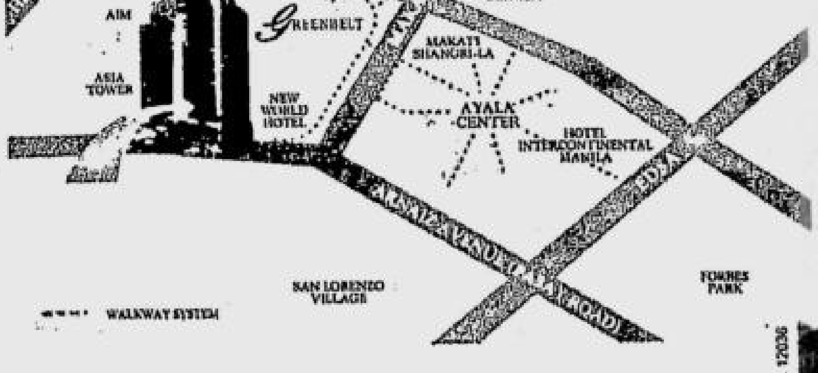

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Education: Gateway to success

Students develop monitoring system for DepED

FIVE Computer Science and Information Technology (CSIT) sophomore students of the Asia Pacific College (APC) have been tasked to do conceptualization and development of an information and communications technology (ICT)-based monitoring system of the Department of Education (DepED). The NEPP, through its co-directors Perla Intia and Alice Panares, has tapped Software Systems Engineering students Andrew Go, Joseph Capulong, Joseph Khalaf, Juan Bermudez and Gino Velasco in partial fulfillment of APC's Project-Based Learning (PBL) academic exercises.

These sophomores will develop an online monitoring system to be used by secondary public high school teachers in the Mentor Training Program (MTP) of DepED's NEPP. The prototype will be tested by the fourth quarter of the current year to be implemented early next year involving the facility for feedback mechanism and analysis of teacher-mentors and their mentees, so as to generate quick evaluation of the English Proficiency Program. There are around 119,000 high school teachers all over the country of which a third have access to ICT that will benefit from this project.

Asia Pacific College's CSIT Program uses PBL techniques with students from the sophomore to the senior year working mostly with government agencies pursuant to APC's vision of bridging industry and academe. These students do live case ICT projects for the National Telecommunications Commission, Armed Forces of the Philippines, Career Executive Service Board, Cooperative Development Authority, National Food Authority, National Electrification Administration, DILG PATROL 117, Bureau of Customs, Supreme Court, Office of the Solicitor General to name a few, developing ICT projects in support of the client's information needs.

TIP HOLDS COMMENCEMENT RITES
Angelita S. Soliven, vice president for Administration-Manila, Dr. Maria Consuelo V. Flora, vice president for Academic Affairs, Elizabeth Q. Lahoz, president, Jose Crisostomo, Che, Magna Cum Laude and his father Pedro Crisostomo.

MARCELINO D. Catahan, Ph.D., TIP Alumna and Elizabeth Q. Lahoz

The small giant

By Maureen Gelle- Valerio

"AH... Colegio de San Lorenzo... sa'n 'yon?"

This has developed into a standardized response every time I tell people where I work. At some point, I have come to accept that our stature is unlike that of the big colleges and universities that can easily be recognized by a majority of our population. However, the idea of me, just taking it as it is, is a remote possibility. I don't want to deprive you of the opportunity to be intimately introduced to a small giant... a small college with a big intention.

The College Department of Colegio de San Lorenzo was established in 1993. 12 years... fairly young, you may say. But I know you will agree with me that along with being young comes vitality, flexibility and innovation. Our faculty members, me included, exert all effort and explore all possibilities just to provide our students with the kind of education suited to their needs and relevant to the needs of society. A perfect example is our "baby", the College of Nursing. Colegio de San Lorenzo is aware that a big portion of our society is in search of quality nursing education which will provide them with enormous opportunities for a better and brighter future. We willingly and openly accepted this responsibility, thus, we took the liberty of offering aspiring nurses a chance to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes they need to become professional nurses later on. We have conferred all possible resources to guarantee that our curriculum and facilities meet, or even surpass, the expectations of everybody.

The same holds true with our BS-Hotel and Restaurant Management. An entire wing of the College Department was converted into a fully- functional laboratory to ensure that our students will be endowed with all the capabilities and competencies they will be needing in their chosen profession.

In line with our vision and mission of providing the youth with education relevant to their own needs and the needs of society, we have diverse courses from which students can choose from. Ample consideration is given to the

GIANT/ H7

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Kaya kung inaambisyon mong magtayo at mag-design ng matataas na building, dito ka na sa Civil Engineering course ng Technological Institute of the Philippines. Dahil sa TIP, ang Engineering hindi lang sa textbook nakasalalay lahat, hands-on dito. May hi-tech facilities pa.

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Strategic school management seminar for basic education teachers

Basic education is the most critical phase in any country's educational system. Therefore, it is incumbent upon school leaders to take their leadership role seriously

A WELL-ATTENDED seminar for basic education teachers from three divisions of city-schools of Pasig/San Juan, Mandaluyong, and Manila, was held at Jose Rizal University, Main Campus recently, on the subject of "Strategic School Management for the 21st Century." The seminar was conducted by professor Eduardo P. Garrovillas, fresh from an international conference on higher education, held in Taipei, Republic of China, organized by Ming Chuan University, where he presented a paper on the need for a regional regulatory body for higher education institutions. Last year, Garrovillas read his paper in the Academy of International Business, Southeast Asia Conference, held in Macau, China, on the practical applicability of the balanced scorecard approach in the effective management of higher education institutions.

Basic education is the most critical phase in any country's educational system. Therefore, it is incumbent upon school leaders to take their leadership role seriously, and to equip themselves with the managerial skills and competencies to achieve the Weberian three Es -- efficiency, effectiveness, and economy in the management of the school. Henri Fayol's managerial tasks of planning, organizing, leading, and control, and the more contemporary insights of management guru, like Peter Drucker, were discussed in the light of both classroom and over-all school management; as well as the challenges of ICT, the greatest "collapser" of time and space; and the rapidly changing macro-environment of the school due to globalization. The attitudes of great leaders and heroes were also taken up, vis a vis the latest issue of Time magazine (April 18, 2005) on the subject.

The said seminar is aligned with Dr. Vincent K. Fabella's program on academic excellence and social responsibility, not only for the internal stakeholders of the institution, but also for JRU's external stakeholders, the larger community, which includes the industry sector, public and private entities, Southeast Asia region and the global community. Dr. Fabella, the president of Jose Rizal University, is at the forefront of the various progressive and dynamic developments within the university, and has been aggressively marshalling its dramatic growth and sustainable competitive edge. Jose Rizal University would like to contribute its share, the expertise of its faculty, for the improvement of basic education in the country, which happens to be the most crucial phase in our educational system. Initial positive suggestion from the participants has it that the said seminar be conducted on a regular basis, say quarterly or annually. All the attendees were given certificate of participation.

Jose Rizal University is in the coveted national government (CHED) list of autonomous and deregulated colleges and universities of the land, an honor and a distinct seal of excellence given to only a few colleges and universities in the Philippines, whose academic offerings have successfully passed the stringent requirements of accreditation. Most of its college degree-programs have earned Level III Accreditation, while its MBA and MPA graduate school programs have been conferred Level II Accreditation; its public administration program is one of the TOP five in the land.

Founded in 1919 by the First Filipino certified public accountant, Don Vicente Fabella, Jose Rizal University has the singular distinction of having the oldest commerce education program in the Philippines, which translates to unparalleled experience and competence in curriculum development and business education. Among its long list of successful alumni are a President of the Philippines, a justice of the Supreme Court, several members of the Cabinet and Legislature, heads of banks and financial institutions, and leaders of educational institutions, captains of industry, commerce, agriculture and trade.

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Conference of Asia-Pacific Public Administration Institutes features the JRU-MPA program research paper

PROFESSOR Eleazar Ricote, Area Head of the JRU-Master in Public Administration (MPA) Program presented his paper about poverty alleviation in the instruction and research of PA in the Philippines, in the biggest gathering of PA schools and institutes in the Asia Pacific Region last 6-9 December 2004 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The said paper is part of the intellectual renaissance in the JRU campus being spearheaded by Dr. Vincent K. Fabella, its young and dynamic university president.

Jointly sponsored by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Malaysia's National Institute of Public Administration (INTAN), the conference looked at the increasing role of PA instruction and research in the quest for poverty alleviation in the region. The JRU paper highlighted how PA instruction and research in the country have long been mindful of the conundrum of poverty alleviation in the milieu of governance. In Philippine PA's major areas of study or inquiry such as public policy, local governance and fiscal administration, poverty alleviation is both the content and context of the nagging desire to approximate and realize development.

The conference also launched a network of these schools in the region and the Philippines is being considered as Secretariat. Being the only Philippine private PA offering invited to present a paper, the JRU-MPA Program will work closely with the University of the Philippines' National College of Public Administration and Governance (NCPAG) on this.

Out of the conference, the JRU-MPA Program will also undertake various academic linkages with PA programs in Japan, Hongkong, Bangladesh and China.

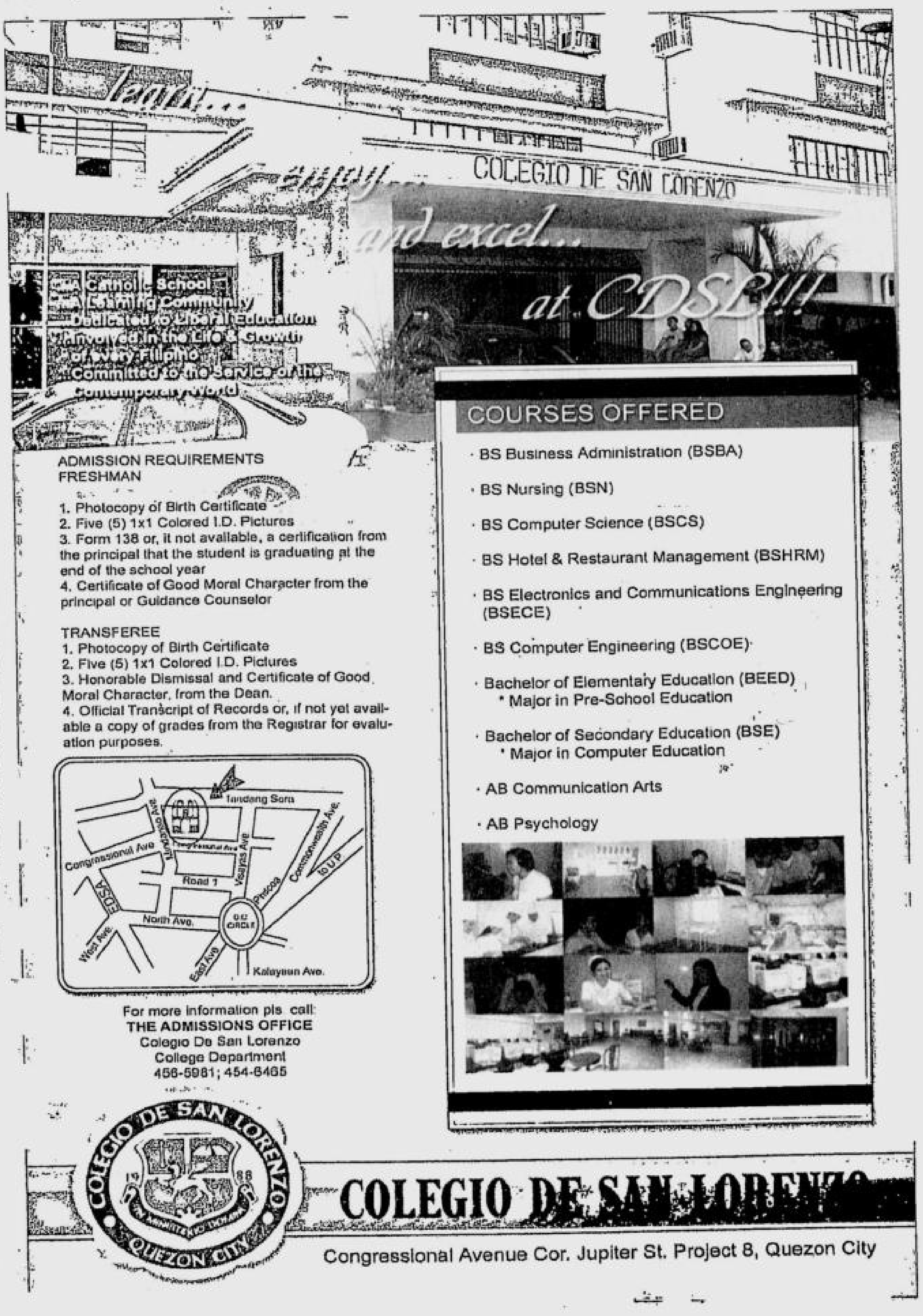
The JRU-MPA Program is probably the only one in the country with Level II Accreditation from the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities-Commission on Accreditation (Pacucoa). It also got a "very good" rating in the recent Evaluation of Graduate Education in the Philippines (Egep) commissioned by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED). In fact, both MPA and MBA programs, two banner-offerings of the JRU Graduate School under Dean Elizabeth P. Rodriguez, achieved "very good" Egep ratings. While public policy oriented, the program has a good mix of the critical areas on PA research and instruction in the country, e.g., fiscal administration, organizational management, public enterprise and local governance.

The Small Giant

: From page H6

strengths and interests of the learners. We offer BS-Business Administration, BS- Computer Science, AB-Communication Arts, AB-Psychology, Education courses and Engineering courses.

I know you are wondering why I described our College as a small giant. We are a small community where everybody knows everybody else. Teachers have judiciously accepted the responsibility of being parent surrogates to our students. We are able to take a close and meticulous look at every step our students take and be there to provide the guidance they need to reach their goals and aspirations. We are their "critical friends"... cautiously leading the youth towards the best that they can be... and that happens to be our gigantic intention.



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2. Five (5) 1x1 Colored I.D. Pictures
3. Form 138 or, if not available, a certification from the principal that the student is graduating at the end of the school year
4. Certificate of Good Moral Character from the principal or Guidance Counselor

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4. Official Transcript of Records or, if not yet available a copy of grades from the Registrar for evaluation purposes.

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  - * Major in Pre-School Education
- Bachelor of Secondary Education (BSE)
  - * Major in Computer Education
- AB Communication Arts
- AB Psychology

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PHILAMLIFE AWARDS PREMIUM PANALO 2 WINNERS

When Philamlife policyowners Julio J. Salomon of Parañaque and Solomon V. Aracena of Tacurong, Sultan Kudarat paid their respective policy premiums on schedule last year, never in their wildest dreams did they imagine that their actions would thrust each of them in the spotlight.

As luck would have it, the two policyowners found an excellent reason to celebrate after they were named the winners in the grand raffle of Philamlife's Premium Panalo 2 promo, with each of them winning a brand new Toyota Corolla Altis!

The grand raffle and awarding ceremony were held recently at the Philamlife U.N. Business Center in Manila. Philamife SVP for Insurance Operations Jose Roel S. Teves and VP for Policyowners Administration Margaret G. Manlapas were on hand to present the keys to the cars to the two lucky policyowners and award the other winners of ninth monthly draw of the promo.

For its 2005 offering, Philamlife offers its policyowners the chance to go on an Asian tour with the Premium Panalo Great Asian Adventure, which will reward five lucky policyowners with vacation packages for two to Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia and Hong Kong/Shenzen plus $1,000 pocket money in the Grand Draw. Also at stake in the Monthly Draws are local trips to the country's top destinations: Boracay, Cebu and Puerto Galera, as well as accommodations at the prestigious Makati Shangri-La Hotel with P10,000 pocket money.

The promo period of the Premium Panalo Great Asian Adventure is from January 1 to December 31, 2005. The grand draw will be on January 16, 2006.

Congratulations to our Premium Panalo 2 Grand Draw Winners!

Metro Manila Winner
Mr. Julio J. Salomon
Parañaque City

Provincial Winner
Mr. Solomon V. Aracena
Sultan Kudarat

Congratulations to our monthly draw winners for January, February and March!

January POLICYOWNER	February POLICYOWNER	March POLICYOWNER
JIMMY L. BAUTISTA QUEZON CITY	MERCEDITA M. CUTANDA UBAY BOHOL	ERIBERTO V ALMAZAN MALOLOS, BULACAN
JANE CHAN BINONDO, MANILA	BARRY D. NILLOS STA. MESA, MANILA	HONORIO C CEPILLO BATANGAS CITY
JUANITA A. LORENZO LAOAG CITY	EDWIN L. FAMENIA DAVAO CITY	CARLOS M BLAS NOVALICHES, QC
BENJAMIN SO ILOILO CITY	OFELIA DL MENDOZA PANDI, BULACAN	CHRISTINA O YAP CALIFORNIA, USA
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Get to choose your dream vacation among the hottest tourist spots in the Philippines

plus P10,000 pocket money in the MONTHLY DRAWS!

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PROMO MECHANICS

WHO CAN JOIN

- All policy owners with in-force premium paying policies.
- Policy owners who responded to company-initiated campaigns.

HOW TO QUALIFY

For Premium Payments

- Every P1,000 single premium payment entitles the policyowner to one (1) raffle entry.
  - > **Payments made on or before the due date** qualify for both the **Monthly and the Grand Draw.**
  - > **Payments made after the due date** but within the 31-day grace period shall be included in the **Grand Draw only.**
- All payments must be made at any Philamlife office or payment facility accredited by Philamlife. Premiums paid from automatic premium loans, dividends and waived by premiums due to disability are not included.

For Company Campaigns

- Each response to a company campaign or offer within the promo period (Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2005) entitles the policyowner to one (1) raffle entry in the **Monthly Draw.**

PRIZES TO BE WON

Grand Draw

Five (5) winners of 3 days - 2 nights roundtrip travel packages for two (2) with $1,000 pocket money. There will be one (1) winner for each destination:

Bali, Indonesia • Singapore • Bangkok, Thailand
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia • Hong Kong/ Shenzhen

Monthly Draw

Each month, five (5) winning policyowners may choose any one (1) of the following destinations for 3 days - 2 nights roundtrip travel package for two (2) with P10,000 pocket money:

Pearl Farm, Davao • Boracay Gold Crowne • Waterfront Lahug, Cebu
Puerto Galera, Mindoro • Makati Shangri-La Hotel

RAFFLE GUIDELINES

1. Policy numbers of paid premiums and respondents to company campaigns will serve as raffle numbers.
2. A computerized program will randomly select the winner.
3. There shall be 12 Monthly Draws and one (1) Grand Draw. Raffle entries earned from premium payments and responses to company campaigns shall be included in the Monthly Draw Date corresponding to the inclusive dates below.

MONTHLY DRAWS			
Inclusive Dates	**Draw Dates**	**Inclusive Dates**	**Draw Dates**
Jan. 1 - Jan. 31, 2005	Feb. 15, 2005	July 1 - July 31, 2005	Aug. 15, 2005
Feb. 1 - Feb. 28, 2005	Mar. 15, 2005	Aug. 1 - Aug. 31, 2005	Sept. 15, 2005
Mar. 1 - Mar. 31, 2005	Apr. 15, 2005	Sept. 1 - Sept. 30, 2005	Oct. 14, 2005
Apr. 1 - Apr. 30, 2005	May 13, 2005	Oct. 1 - Oct. 31, 2005	Nov. 15, 2005
May 1 - May 31, 2005	June 15, 2005	Nov. 1 - Nov. 30, 2005	Dec. 15, 2005
June 1 - June 30, 2005	July 15, 2005	Dec. 1 - Dec. 31, 2005	Jan. 16, 2006
GRAND DRAW			
Inclusive Payment Dates January 1, 2005 - December 31, 2005		**Draw Date** January 16, 2006	

4. **Policies of winning policyowners must be in-force at the time of the raffle date to qualify for the Monthly and Grand Draw Prizes.**
5. Policyowner may only win once during the same raffle draw. In the event that his/her name is drawn more than once, he/she will only get to choose one (1) travel package.
6. Passport and other travel documents shall be secured by the winning policyowner.
7. **All local and international trips will depart from Manila.** The winning policyowner shall shoulder all other expenses to and from Manila.
8. All prizes are exclusive of local and international travel taxes.
9. Philamlife shall shoulder 20% local government tax for prizes exceeding P10,000.
10. All draws shall be held in public and witnessed by Philamlife representatives.
11. Winners shall be notified through registered mail.
12. Winners should present Official Receipt, policy contract and proper identification documents when claiming their prize.
13. Prizes must be claimed within 60 days upon receipt of notification, otherwise, they shall be forfeited.
14. Travel packages are transferable but not convertible to cash.
15. Philamlife reserves the right to publish the photographs and/or names of winners in promotional materials and advertisements as it sees fit.
16. Employees of Philamlife and their representatives up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity or affinity are excluded from the raffle.

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Lake of legends and lore

Lakeshore towns pay tribute to the indestructible Laguna de Bay

By Jerry E. Esplanada

"FILIPINOS are known for throwing great parties," the biggest of which is the Ati-Atihan carnival in Kalibo, Aklan, noted Singaporean travel journalist Yeow Siew Hoon.

"From the crowing of the first cockerel to the downing of the last San Miguel beer, people take to the streets, dressed in their most colorful clothes and the sound of drums and music fill the air all day," Yeow wrote in her best-selling book, "Around Asia in 1 Hour: Tales of Condoms, Chillies and Curries."

This summer, Tanay, one of Rizal's lakeshore municipalities, is throwing a smaller but equally colorful street shebang.

"We'll indulge visitors a must-see agri-products fair, mango festival and fiesta, all rolled into one," said environmental activist Lina Tanjuatco, also the first lady of Tanay.

The event "will also showcase the town's historical heritage, in addition to the can-do attitude. and zest for life of Tanay folk," Tanjuatco said.

"The festivities are meant to welcome the more than 500 foreign and local delegates to the 10th Living Lakes international conference (which the Philippines is hosting next May)," explained Tanjuatco, who is also president of the non-government Tanay Environmental Foundation and the 27-member Federation of River Councils in the lake region.

Living Lakes, established in 1998 by the Germany-based Global Nature Fund, groups 25 environmentally-threatened lakes and wetlands worldwide, including our very own Laguna de Bay.

The celebrations are a "perfect warm up" for Tanay's 400th founding anniversary (in 2006), pointed out Tanay Mayor Tomas Tanjuatco.

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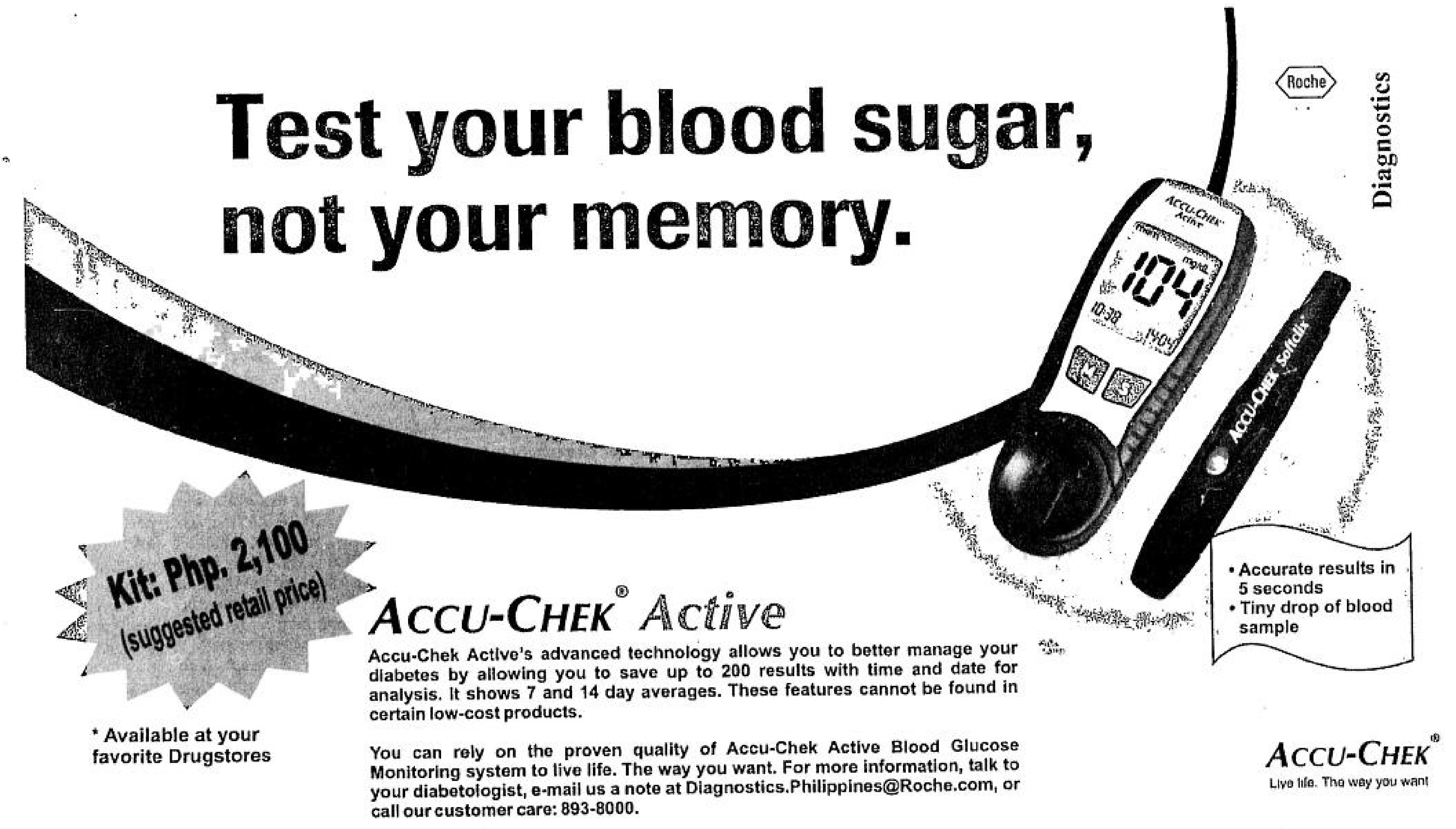

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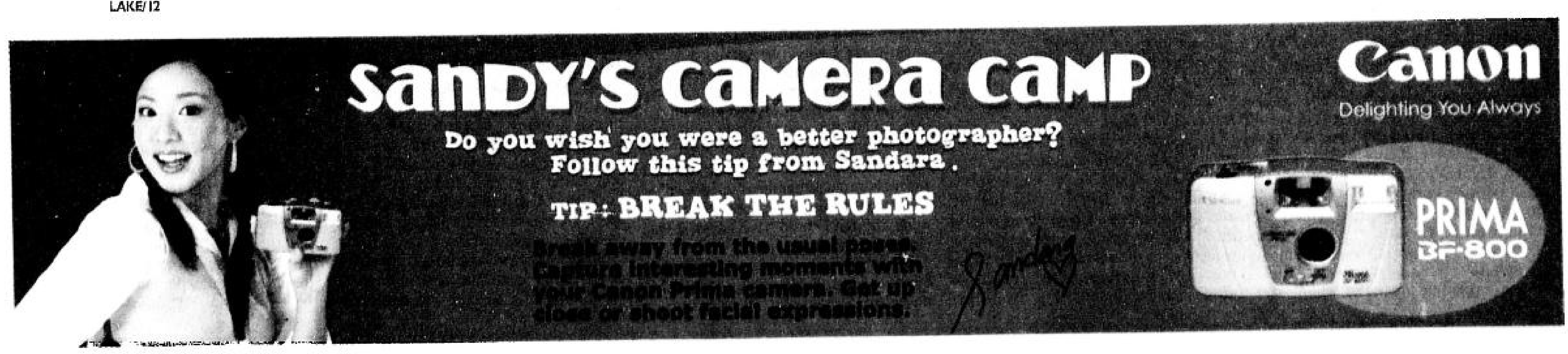

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LAGUNA de Bay PHOTOS BY RAFFY LERMA

Lake of legends and lore

From page 11

of Metro Manila, Tanay is one of 29 municipalities ringing the 98,000-hectare Laguna de Bay, the country's largest lake.

During last year's Living Lakes summit in Canada, Tanjuatco and five other members of the Philippine delegation invited network representatives, as well as "green" activists and other environmentalists from all over the world, to this year's Manila summit.

Thirteen-year-old Quorinne Joy Morado made the same pitch for the Laguna Lake basin in the short film, "Welcome to Laguna de Bay," shown during the opening of the 9th Living Lakes international conference in British Columbia.

The Sacred Heart Academy of Pasig high school sophomore was the narrator in the seven-minute video, where she also named a dozen-or-so of the hundreds of tourist attractions in the Calabarzon (composed of the provinces of Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon).

The region's natural wealth includes the centuries-old Tanay church, said Morado.

Rizal is home to world-class artists like the family of Jose Blanco, Vicente Manansala, Carlos "Botong" Francisco, Nemiranda and Rafael Pacheco, among others,

In Laguna, Paete townsfolk are famous for their wood carvings.

Lumban, known for its delta, is equally famous for its intricate embroideries.

Other points of interest:

- Spanish-era houses in Pagsanjan, a town that is also known for its waterfalls and a big river famous for its rapids.
- The very colorful Pahiyas festival in Lukban, Quezon, "celebrated every May 15 to thank San Isidro Labrador, the patron saint of farmers, for a good harvest."
- The "university town" of Los Baños also hosts many hot springs and resorts, thanks to the volcanic nature of Mt. Makiling.
- The Calamba shrine of national hero Dr. Jose Rizal, who on many occasions had talked about Laguna de Bay in his poems and novels.

In the 1860s, Rizal's Laguna de Bay connected the pueblos of Laguna and Morong (now Rizal province), Isla de Talim and the communities along the Pasig River.

Today, the lake region is composed of six provinces, 12 cities and 49 municipalities. A total of 24 sub-basins drain directly into the lake, with the Pagsanjan-Lumban river system contributing to as much as 35 percent of the total inflow to the lake.

The tripartite CLEAR, short for Conservation of Laguna de Bay's Environment and Resources, is currently behind efforts to rehabilitate the sick but still vibrant lake.

CLEAR is composed of the nongovernment Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands, the DENR-attached Laguna Lake Development Authority and consumer goods giant Unilever Philippines.

The body was responsible for the Philippine lake's membership bid in 2000 and subsequent admission to Living Lakes the following year during the summit held in Ulan Ude, a city in Russia's eastern Siberian region.

Laguna de Bay's Living Lakes partners are Baikal in Russia, Biwa in Japan, Columbia River Wetlands in Canada, Mono in California, USA, Laguna Fuquene in Colombia, Titicaca in Bolivia and Peru, Mar Chiquita in Argentina, Chapala in Mexico, La Nava in Spain, Constance in Germany, Switzerland and Austria, Milicz Pond in Poland, Vortjarv and Peipsi in Estonia and Russia, Balaton in Hungary, Nestos in Greece, Victoria in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, St. Lucia Wetlands in South Africa, Uluabat in Turkey, Dead Sea in Israel, Palestine and Jordan, Tengiz in Kazakhstan, Poyang in China, Mahakam in Indonesia, the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads in Great Britain, and the Pantanal Wetlands in Brazil, Bolivia and Paraguay.

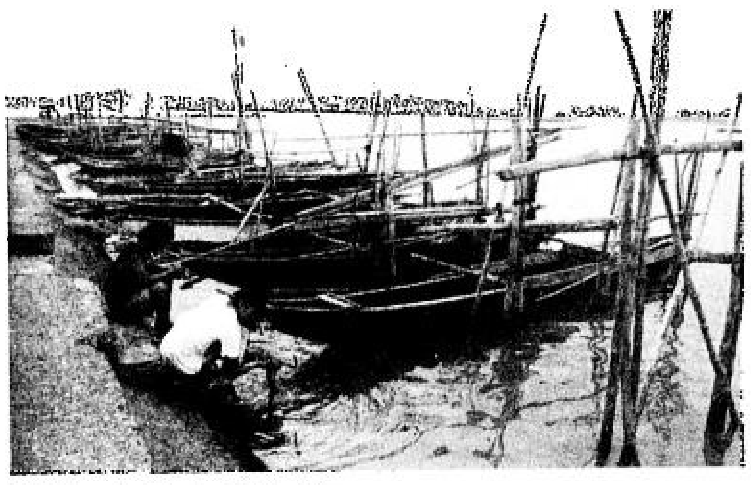
The following lakes and wetlands are listed as network associate members: Kolindsund in Denmark, Lago Enriquillo in the Dominican Republic, Lac Azuei in Haiti, Sapanca in Turkey, Salobrar de Campos in Spain, Mindelsee in Germany, Labanoras Park in Lithuania, Uvs in Mongolia, Pulicat in India, and Maduganga, Madampe and Bolgoda, all in Sri Lanka.

For over four years now, Laguna de Bay has been a lake "on the watch not just by Laguna Lake stakeholders but by the citizens of the world," said Chito Macapagal, Unilever general manager for corporate development.

Other Living Lakes members "now have a say in saving and preserving one of the most economically important and environmentally significant resources in the country," Macapagal added.

This international recognition, said SCPW project head Amy Lecciones, "inspires and adds the needed impetus for CLEAR to proceed with its action plan."

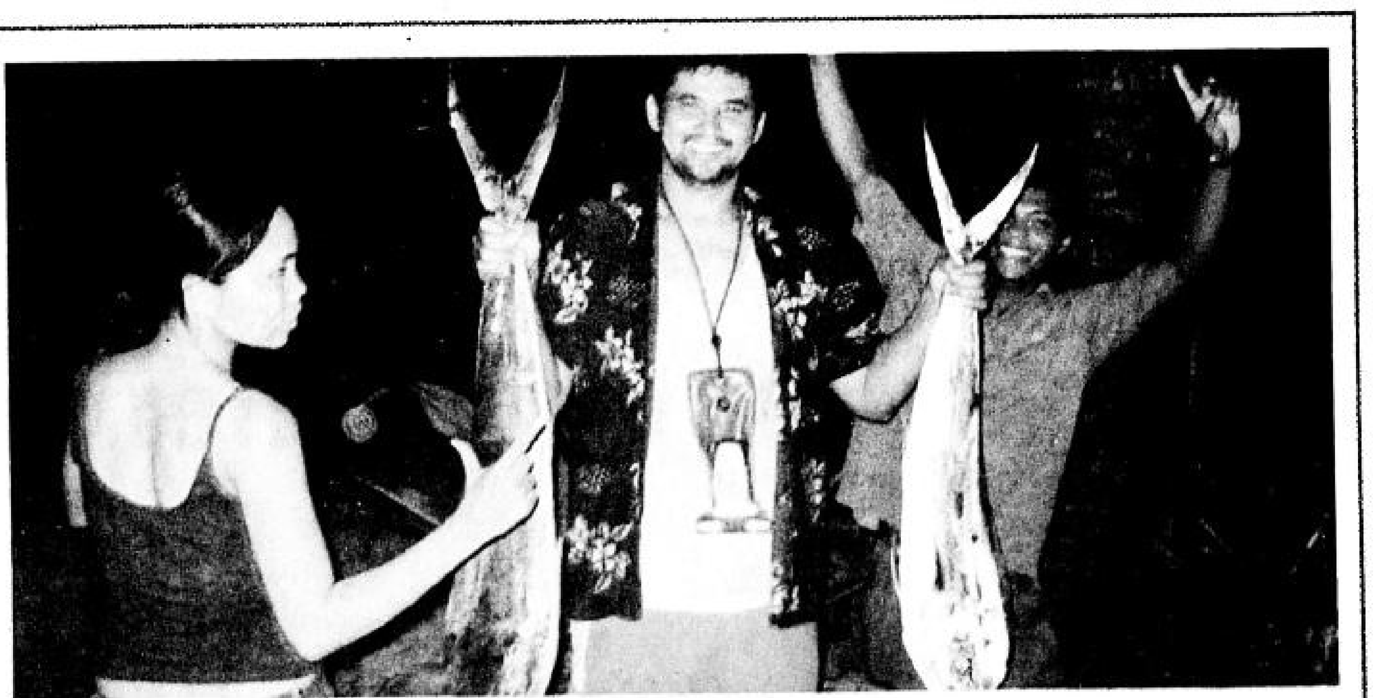
"The Lake and its People: Responsible Stewardship by Lake Communities" is the theme of this year's Living Lakes international conference, set May 14-20 at the Taal Vista hotel in Tagaytay City.



MAN bathes his dog in the lake.

The fish that got away

By Carlos R. Munda, Jr.
Contributor



CARLOS Munda holds dorados caught in Siargao, Surigao del Norte.

ONE of the unfortunate things about fishing for Barramundis (commonly called Seabass in the finer Chinese restaurants) is that you can only do it in a few places in the world.

While the Barra has been caught in places as remote as the rivers and estuaries of Vietnam, it is really only in Australia that Barramundi fishing has become an industry.

But local anglers wanting to try the fabled fighting power of the Barramundi no longer have to fly to Australia to do so. All they have to do is go to Alabel in Sarangani Province (which is way to the south of Davao City and right beside Gen. Santos City) for the chance to land one. Quite a trip, but an experience worth every centavo.

You see, few fishes capture the imagination of anglers as does the Barramundi. These monsters, some growing up to 80 lbs, are among the most sought-after game fishes in the world.

Ultimate fantasy

For many, hooking a fighting Barra at the end of a straining monofilament line is the ultimate fishing fantasy. Known for their pulling strength, agility and spectacular leaping ability, Barras have a reputation for collecting lures from many unwary fishermen who are (un)lucky enough to tangle with them.

I remember my first time fishing for Barra. It was around this same time last year, and I had just gone back to Davao from Manila. I felt bad then because I had missed participating in a fishing tournament at Isla Parilla in Alabel (where the Barras are).

The winning fish in the tournament was a seven-and-a-half-pound Barramundi caught by my friend Manny. As I was looking at the photo of that fish, I knew I had to catch one for myself.

A few weeks after, I decided the time was right to land me a Barra of my own. So I packed my gear and headed out. I arrived at the resort in the early afternoon and after checking in, I proceeded to fish.

More than baiting

Now for those unfamiliar with fishing, it isn't just hooking the bait, dropping it in the water, and waiting for the fish to come and bite. There is actually more to fishing than that. Just like the proverbial skinning of the cat, there are other ways to catch fish.

One of my favorites is using lures, those plastic fish-like things with hooks on them that you drag on the water, making them swim like real bait fish. Basically you just cast and retrieve these things until a bigger fish decides it's hungry and eats your lure. Then the fight is on.

Back to my fish tale. I was using my lucky Rapalla Shad Rap, which is a small fish-like lure made of balsa wood, and casting it near a floating restaurant at the water's edge. I had about 200 yards of 12-pound line on my Tica spinning reel. For my leader, I was using a 20-pound braided line formed into a loop. The sun had already set, and it was getting quite late. I still hadn't had dinner, since I was just too pumped up to get hungry.

Not too many people know this about fishing, but it actually is a very exciting sport, even without catching any fish. Baloney, you say.

Well, let me tell you I've gone diving on a wreck 220 feet underwater on a single tank of air, I've rappelled off a 280-foot cliff at night without a helmet, and I've joined and completed one of those AXN adventure races. Yet nothing compares to the suspense and anticipation of waiting for that fish to bite, or the rush of excitement when the fish actually does. It's one of those better-to-experience-it-for-yourself things.

> Even as I lost
> the Barramundi,
> the experience gave me
> something more
> important:
> an appreciation
> of my country, its land
> and its resources

So there I was, just casting and retrieving, casting and retrieving. At this point, I could no longer see where I was throwing the lure. I was just guessing.

Suddenly the water boiled just in front of me. I mean, it positively erupted, and my lure was gone. The line went taut and the reel started screaming, "screeeeee!"

All this happened in about three seconds, though I could have sworn it was closer to 10 hours.

When I finally got my wits about me, I set the drag a little tighter and settled down to a drawn-out fight. One major disadvantage I faced at this point was that I couldn't see where the line was entering the water. This meant I had no idea where the fish was, and he could very well run into some of the bamboo pylons stuck all over the water and wrap the line around them. If this happened, then he would surely get away.

But even if I couldn't see him, I could definitely hear him. He was splashing like a waterfall somewhere in the dark ahead of me. I heard him break the surface about three times before he started giving in.

It was still a good five to ten minutes before I finally had him close enough to net. But just as I was about to, he flipped his big powerful tail and with one last splash, disappeared into the night-dark water.

Losing it

My heart skipped a beat or two, and there was a longing that I really couldn't describe at losing that fish. From what I saw of it, it was a beautiful fish—big bony head, silver scales, large, upturned mouth and round eyes that turned red in the light. How I wished I had caught it, but those are the breaks in fishing. The big ones do often get away.

Since that first Barramundi that got away, I have been fortunate enough to be able to land several—on one occasion catching two 3.5-kilo specimens before the lunch bell sounded. And for every one that I caught, perhaps three more got away, most with my not-really-cheap lures still in their mouths.

Many of my friends and fishing buddies have also had the privilege of landing (and losing) their own Barras. Still, as with most of the things we do in life, none can truly compare with the first time.

That first tangle with the Barra is a memory I treasure; one that I always delight in dragging out from the closest, like an old trophy, and showing off to people.

But whenever I do, I am surprised that more than just the fish story, what usually amazes people is that the experience is available for Filipinos in the Philippines. I'd be rich now if I had had a dollar for every foreigner I'd met who didn't believe Barramundis could be caught locally, or that we even knew how to fish recreationally.

In the end, even as I lost that fish, the experience gave me something more important: an appreciation of my country, its land and its resources.

I know there are more Barramundis and tunas and marlins and a million other fishes out there to catch, and it's great that I can experience all of it from the ease and comfort of home.

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Looking for a resort not too far from Manila? Try the Blue Dolphin Place in Barangay Carenahan, Balayan, Batangas. Owned by the Pollard family, Blue Dolphin Place is just a few minutes away from the beachfront. It has dormitory-type rooms, with their own kitchens, toilets and baths. Call 0917-8439163 or 0922-4243726.

TRAVELBRIEFS

Food trip

LADY'S Choice has tied up with the Department of Tourism's Biyahe Na! tourism program. The promo Lady's Choice Food Trip, which tours regional fiestas, capitalizes on the Filipinos' passion for food and demonstrates how creative one can be with Lady's Choice Mayonnaise. The Lady's Choice Grand Fiesta activation has been to the Dinagyang in Iloilo, Sinulog in Cebu and will be at Dagupan and the "Pahiyas" in Quezon.

Boat tours

YOU don't have to snorkel or scuba dive to visit Isla Verde Resort, located off the waters of Batangas Bay, south of Batangas City and north of Calapan, Oriental Mindoro. Through a glass bottom boat that departs the resort daily, you can view the underwater world without getting wet. The boat tour is two hours long. Call 7500466/ 7500470.

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Cozy room

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Treat for moms

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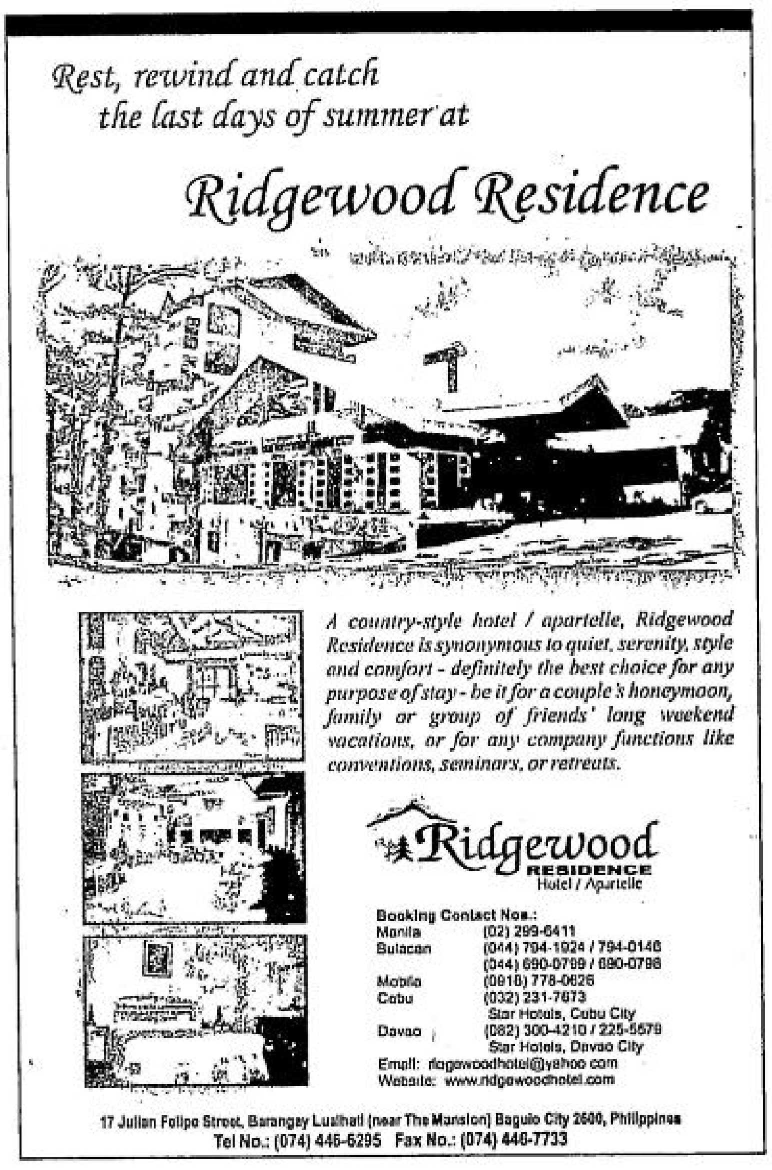

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Former President Aquino Keynotes Splash Corporation's 20th Anniversary Gala Night

"Beyond the impressive numbers, it is Splash Corporation's commitment to the Filipino that, I believe, constitutes the hallmark of its success", extolled former President Corazon Aquino as she keynoted the company's 20th Anniversary Gala Night held recently at the NBC Tent, Fort Global City, Taguig. Mrs. Aquino described Splash Corporation's transformation from a P12,000 start-up backyard business into a multi-billion enterprise.

"Its Corporate Cause - 'To uplift the pride and economic well-being of the Filipino' - speaks volumes of the company's focus and sense of purpose,"she expounded as she related Splash Corporation's contributions to society not only through short-term outreach projects but also with sustainable corporate social responsibility programs.

Former President Corazon Aquino while delivering her keynote speech.

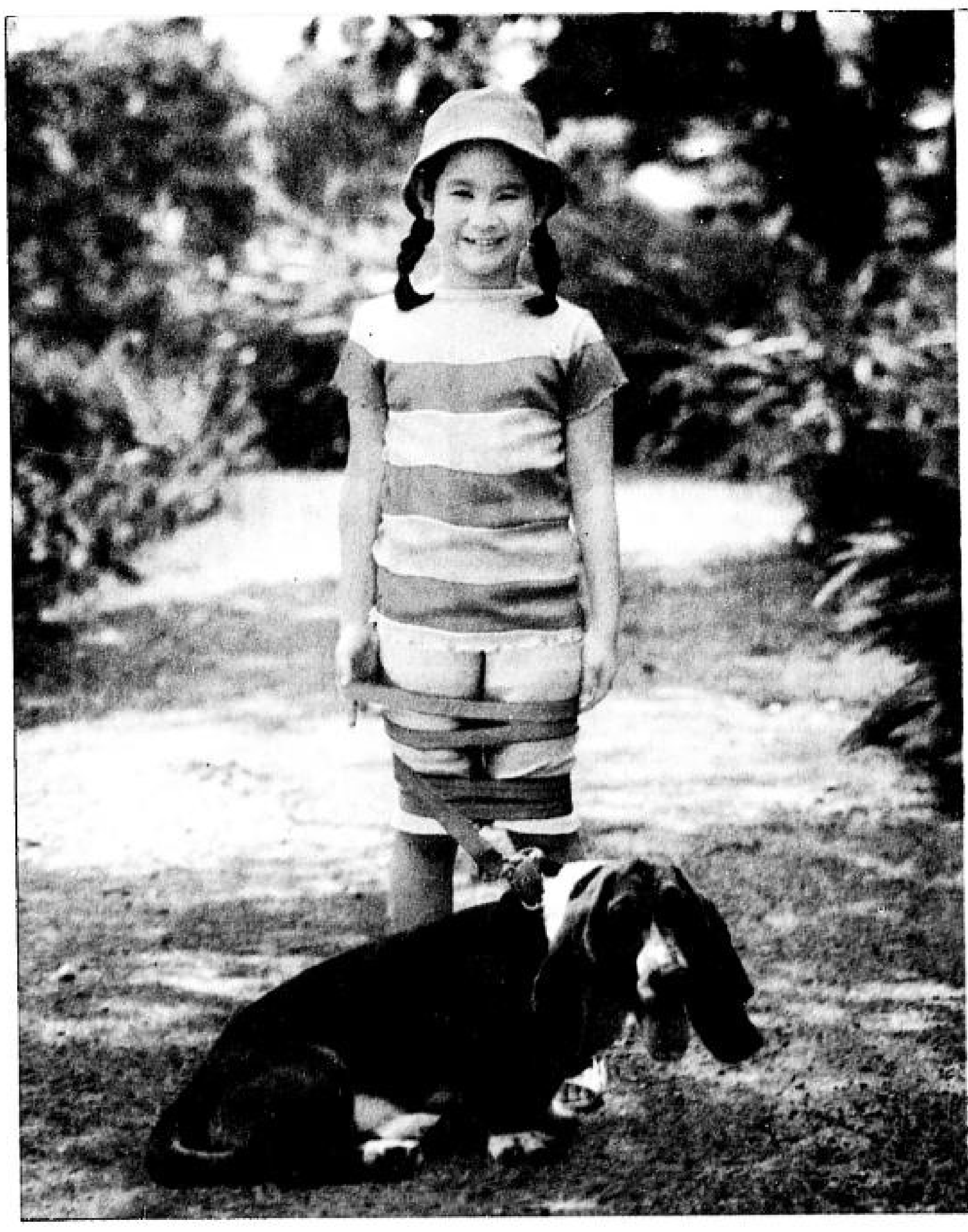
Splash Corporation is a wholly-owned Filipino personal care company from which came megabrands Extraderm, Maxi-Peel, Skin White and Biolink. The company has established presence in 17 countries worldwide including a joint-venture partnership in Indonesia. It is the only Filipino company in the top ten in the highly competitive P 69.3 billion Philippine Cosmetics and Toiletries industry and is no. 1 to the skin care segment.

"From a fledging, backyard company, the patronage and loyalty that the Filipino people have given to us enabled Splash to climb the market charts and join the giants of the industry. It is only right that we give something back," said Splash Corporation's Vice-Chairman and CFO Dr. Rosalinda Hortaleza.

During the event, the company launched its 20th Anniversary corporate social responsibility programs such as Estudyanteng Negosyante, Batang Henyo and Negosyanteng Pinoy. These programs are focused on developing Filipino entrepreneurs and scientists especially in the field of beauty and health care. With "Estudyanteng Negosyante", Splash Corporation aims to award scholarships on entrepreneurship to 20 poor but deserving Filipino students. "Batang Henyo" will likewise award 20 research grants to young scientists. Finally, "Negosyanteng Pinoy" aims to support local entrepreneurs by way of giving training and financial aid. All these programs will be conducted on top of the company's existing programs under Splash Foundation Inc.

"While in the beginning it was about survival, today it is a matter of commitment to the Filipino people: It is about uplifting lives, sparking hope, empowering the less privileged, giving opportunities to poor Filipino communities whose own dreams may have been cast aside," added Dr. Rosalinda Hortaleza.

In formally launching Splash's Corporate Cause during the anniversary night, Chairman and CEO, Dr. Rolando Hortaleza said "The dream continues, Splash is a testament to our great belief in Filipino capability. Splash, through its products, is now flying the Filipino flag proudly in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Middle East, and Vietnam. Just as we've made our indelible mark in the Philippines, we shall nurture our dream of becoming a leading player in the global beauty industry. But even as we expand our business overseas and even in the face of other companies moving out of the Philippines, we shall stay right here in the land of our birth and with the people who gave us so much to care and thank for. The Philippines will continue to be our manufacturing hub. We will help the economy. We shall employ Filipinos. And when we export our products, the stamp 'Made in the Philippines' shall carry it with the enormous pride of our people."



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Motorists' 'alalay' makes long-distance driving safer

FOR ALMOST two decades, Lakbay Alalay, the Petron-sponsored motorist assistance project, has helped Filipinos cope with problems faced when driving long distances.

More than anything else, it has helped clear the roads of stalled cars blocking the way of other motorists.

The Petron motorist assistance project relies on hundreds of volunteer employees of the oil company. Mark Anthony Lopez is overall coordinator.

It has helped summer road travelers for the past 19 years. Free vehicle assistance (except for spare parts and fuel) and emergency services through the years made traveling by road safe and convenient, especially during occasions like Holy Week when many people get out of the city.

Lopez said motorists had learned to give importance to ensuring that their vehicles were in tiptop condition before venturing on long drives on the highways. Motorists trooped to Petron's service stations for free car check services before Holy Week.

That Lakbay Alalay was effective seemed to be borne out by statistics. From 5000-6000 calls for assistance the project received in 2003, the number of motorists needing help dropped to 2000 in 2004. During Holy Week this year, Lakbay Alalay only got 875 calls.

Less stalled vehicles on highways means more road space. And more road space translates into safer and better driving conditions.

As they say, prevention is better than cure, and this seems to work as well with cars. Petron's Lakbay Alalay has helped spread that message to more and more motorists over the years.

Kaogma will be one fiery festival

CAMARINES Sur, known to produce some of the spiciest dishes in the country, is holding what it promises to be one of the Philippines' hottest festivals.

The Kaogma Festival, to be held May 21-27, is touted to be an exhilarating and fiery experience.

The capital, Pili, will be transformed into a big red-hot chili garden. The week-long festivities will feature motorcades, dances, fire eaters and fire throwers, bonfires and fireworks, beauty pageant and boxing matches.

Some of the country's hottest bands and most popular celebrities are expected to grace the event, which will also be a showcase of the province's spicy cuisine and local handicraft.

Camarines Sur is the largest province of the Bicol Region. Its governor is Luis Raymund Villafuerte.

Kaogma is Bikolano for happiness. The festival will pay homage to the province's farmers and fisherfolk but will also celebrate the province's history, its people and indigenous products.

In Pili, booths will be set up in the capitol grounds selling local foods and products.

Those interested in attending the Kaogma Festival can fly to Pili, drive or go by one of several buses that travel to the province from Manila every day.

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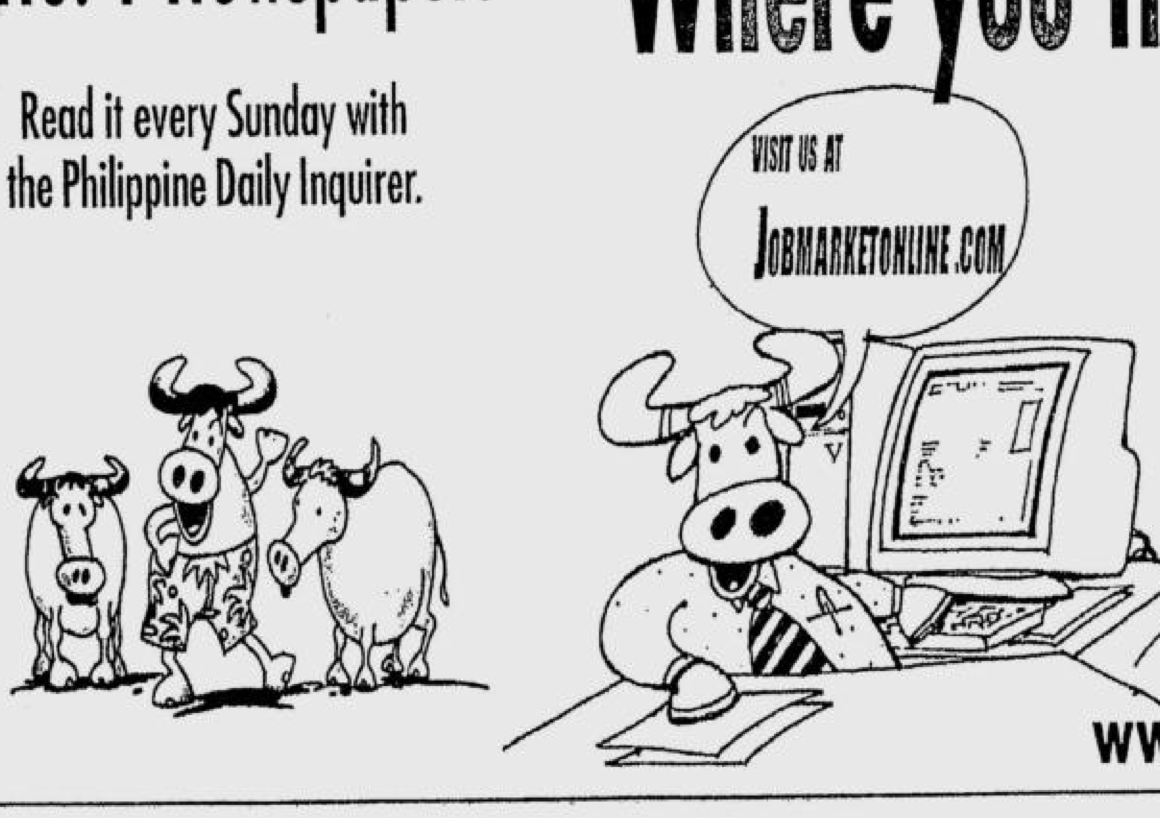

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STEAM locomotive in Central Azucarera de la Carlota

TRAPPIST monastery in Guimaras

A pre-Cologne World Youth Day tour of southern Philippines celebrates a colorful heritage of faith and culture

Wanna lay siege on the Visayas à la 'Kingdom of Heaven'?

By Nicolo F. Bernardo
Contributor

TIME was, Crusaders trooped to the Holy Land for God and glory, fighting tooth and nail to reach an unknown haven of indulgences and exotic cultures, as could be glimpsed from the hit movie, "Kingdom of Heaven," showing in Manila theaters right now.

That was a bygone Europe. Now, one can be an adventurous pilgrim without turning into a dicey Orlando Bloom. Just go to the Visayas, the Philippine Jerusalem, the country's cradle of the Catholic faith. A paradise and a holy land, the Visayas islands are a veritable Kingdom of Heaven.

Yes, the seventh heaven is here and Airborne 7 Travel will take you to the best cultural spots and religious sites in the country.

Inspired by the globetrotting spirit of John Paul the Great, Airborne teams up with Linkod ng Kabataan Alay sa Panginoon (LinkAP) to bring young crusaders to the South, especially islands the late Holy Father visited in 1981—Cebu, Davao, Bacolod and Iloilo. The special tour is in preparation for the 20th World Youth Day in Germany.

Readying its second holy cruise, Airborne offers a tour from Manila to Bacolod, Iloilo and Guimaras from May 30 to June 3. This comes as a sequel to the Bohol and Cebu tour that has been rescheduled to May 26-30. A third tour to Davao on June 4-7 will follow.

Those who want a quick fix to bliss can obtain the shorter and very economical three-days-and-two-nights arrangement now available for each tour.

Exciting cruise

The second cruise is as exciting as the first. For day one, participants will tour the Bago City and Negros Museums in Negros Occidental and visit century-old churches rich in liturgical arts such as San Sebastian Cathedral and Sta. Clara Chapel, and view the mural of St. Joseph the Worker at the Victoria's Milling Company, dubbed by Life Magazine as "the Chapel of the Angry Christ." There are many crafts and images to scrutinize and decipher, enough to turn one into another Dan Brown symbologist.

Next comes the trip to the sinless city of Immaculata in Escalante, just in time for the Manlambus festival. Manlambus means "to strike with a club," in reference to the natives wielding the spear of faith before the parade of religious images and local beauties.

The beauties' sweetie looks will hold one's eyes for a honeypot catch of the "Last Iron Dinosaurs," the still-running diesel and steam locomotives transporting sugar canes around Negros, which has been called "sugarlandia" (where ants in the pants are better put off!).

On board to Iloilo for a city excursion is next. Feel like a Templar knight inside the Miag-ao Church, a fortress church on UNESCO's World Heritage list, built against invading Moors in a baroque Romanesque style. Its ornate sandstone facade features a relief sculpture of St. Christopher carrying the Child Jesus amid coconuts, papaya and guava trees.

Get possessed afterwards with the drumbeats of the Dinagyang Tribe Dancers, before partaking of the savory lunch by the beach at Villa Regata. Dinagyang is a mardi gras-like street revelry of competing tribes in Iloilo, a tradition that began since the original image of Sto. Niño de Cebu was brought to the San Jose Church in 1968.

A program will follow at SM City-Iloilo for exchange of song and dance numbers, games and fellowships between Manila and Iloilo participants, as the merry-making with the Dinagyang Dancers lasts through the cultural night.

'Amazing (g)race'

An "amazing race" mock challenge begins once the tourists arrive in the mango-country Guimaras.

They will make the trek to the only Trappist monastery in San Miguel Jordan, where contemplative monks teach the natives to make fruit jams and religious souvenirs. There, you can buy your mementos, as long as it won't hitch you for the race.

Bring home free mangoes from a mango plantation before the path to Calvary in Balaan Bukid ("holy mountain"), where you can hike like the athletic John Paul II to a giant cross and chapel atop. The summit of this "Holy Hill" is the highest point in Guimaras, which offers a scenic view of Iloilo City across the strait.

If your keepsakes stuff are not enough, seize the coming free day for shopping, just don't forget to break bread and gain indulgences from the Holy Mass. Whoever wins the games and race can justly claim the Crusaders' mandate: "God wills it!" The end of the tour is to find the Kingdom of Heaven within.

If you're interested in the Airborne-LinkAP pre-World Youth Day tours and activities, call 7518701 to 04/7519858, or visit www.freewebs.com/wyd2005linkap.

WHITE chapel in Balaan Bukid

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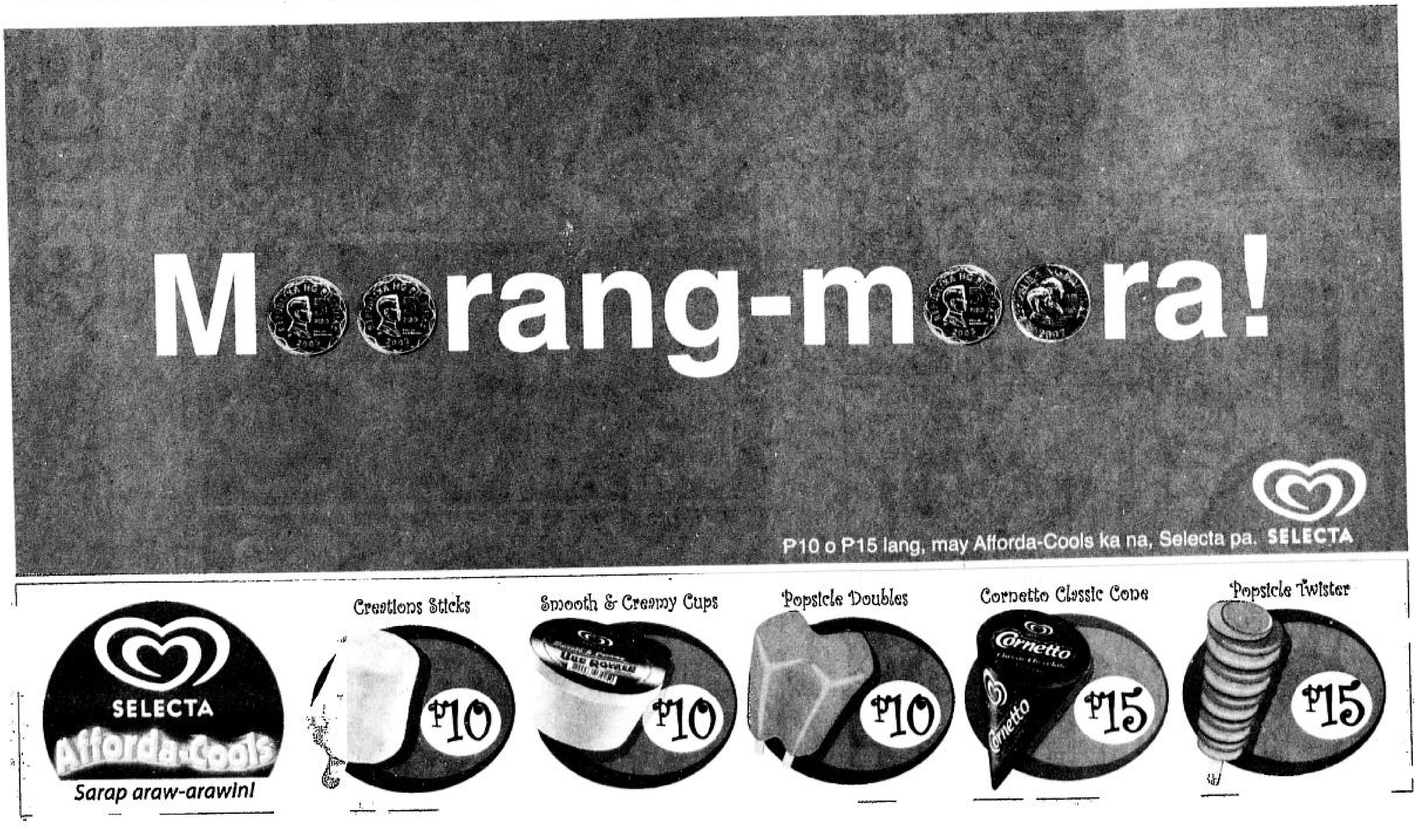
M○○rang-m○○ra!
P10 o P15 lang, may Afforda-Cools ka na, Selecta pa. SELECTA
SELECTA Afforda-Cools Sarap araw-arawin!
Creations Sticks P10
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RAGNAROK

BY ROBERT WONG

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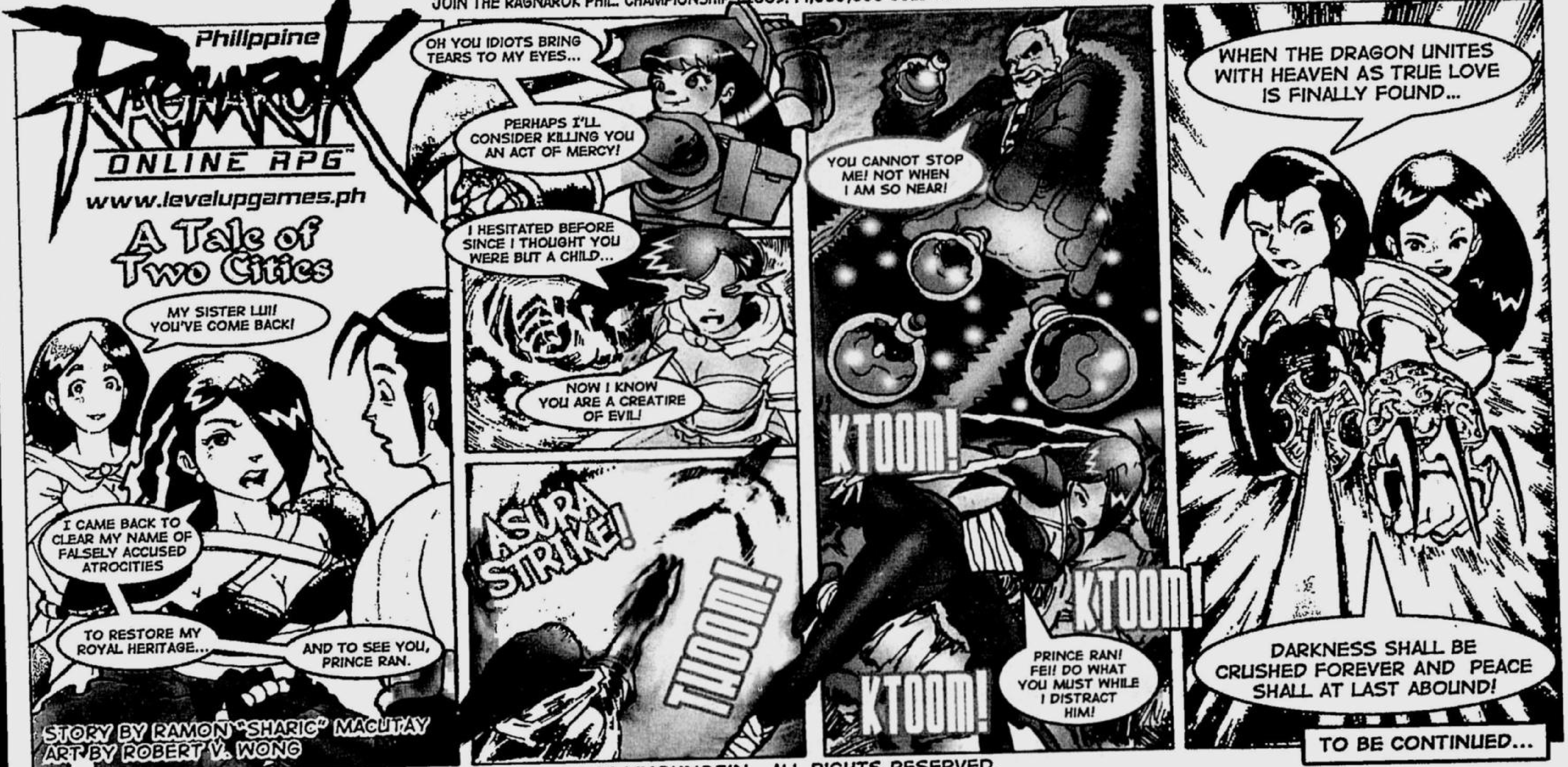
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I CAME BACK TO CLEAR MY NAME OF FALSELY ACCUSED ATROCITIES
TO RESTORE MY ROYAL HERITAGE...
AND TO SEE YOU, PRINCE RAN.
STORY BY RAMON "SHARIC" MACUTAY
ART BY ROBERT V. WONG
OH YOU IDIOTS BRING TEARS TO MY EYES...
PERHAPS I'LL CONSIDER KILLING YOU AN ACT OF MERCY!
I HESITATED BEFORE SINCE I THOUGHT YOU WERE BUT A CHILD...
NOW I KNOW YOU ARE A CREATIRE OF EVIL!
ASURA STRIKE!
THOOM!
YOU CANNOT STOP ME! NOT WHEN I AM SO NEAR!
KTOOM!
KTOOM!
KTOOM!
PRINCE RAN! FEI! DO WHAT YOU MUST WHILE I DISTRACT HIM!
WHEN THE DRAGON UNITES WITH HEAVEN AS TRUE LOVE IS FINALLY FOUND...
DARKNESS SHALL BE CRUSHED FOREVER AND PEACE SHALL AT LAST ABOUND!
TO BE CONTINUED...

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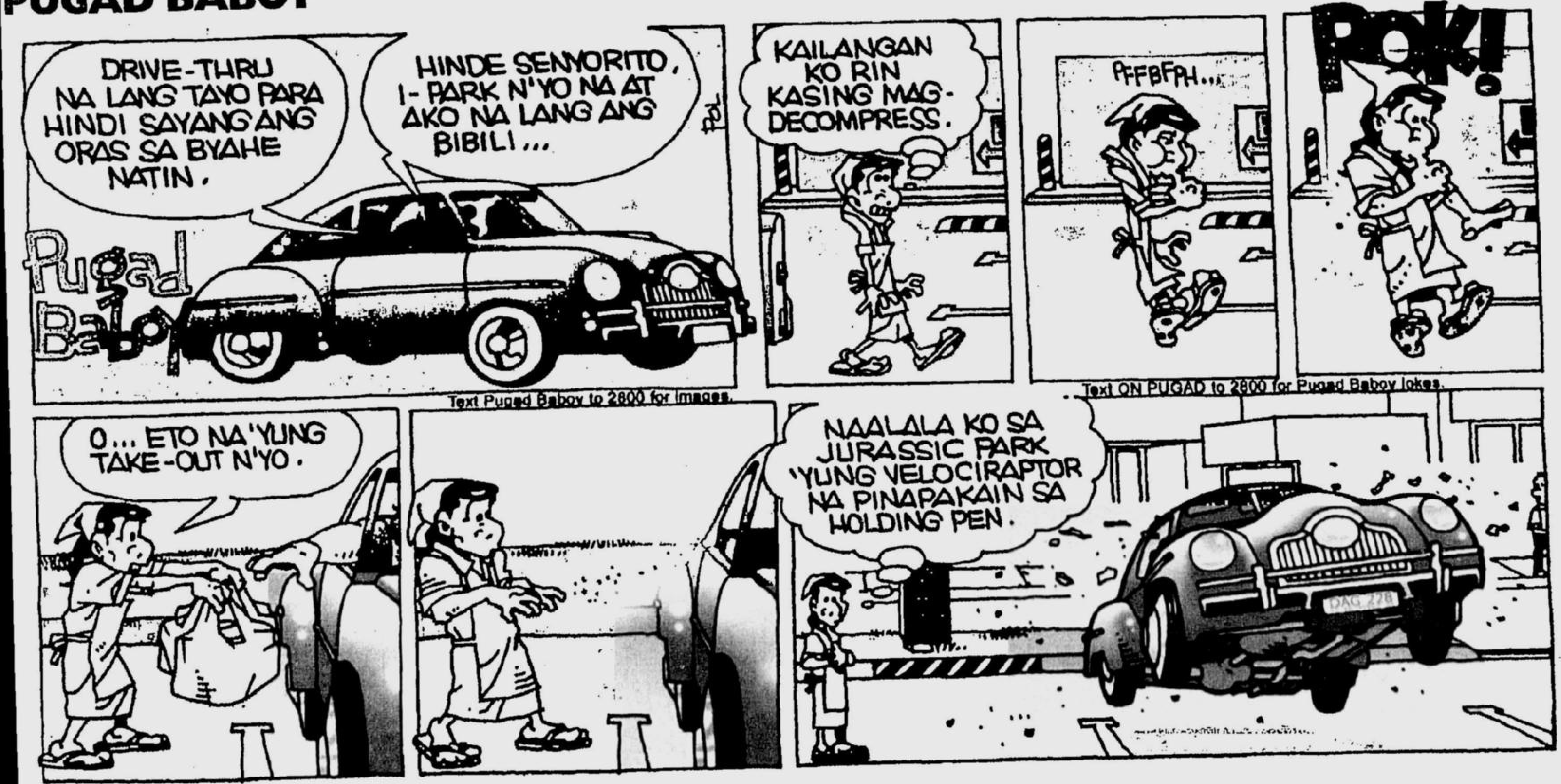
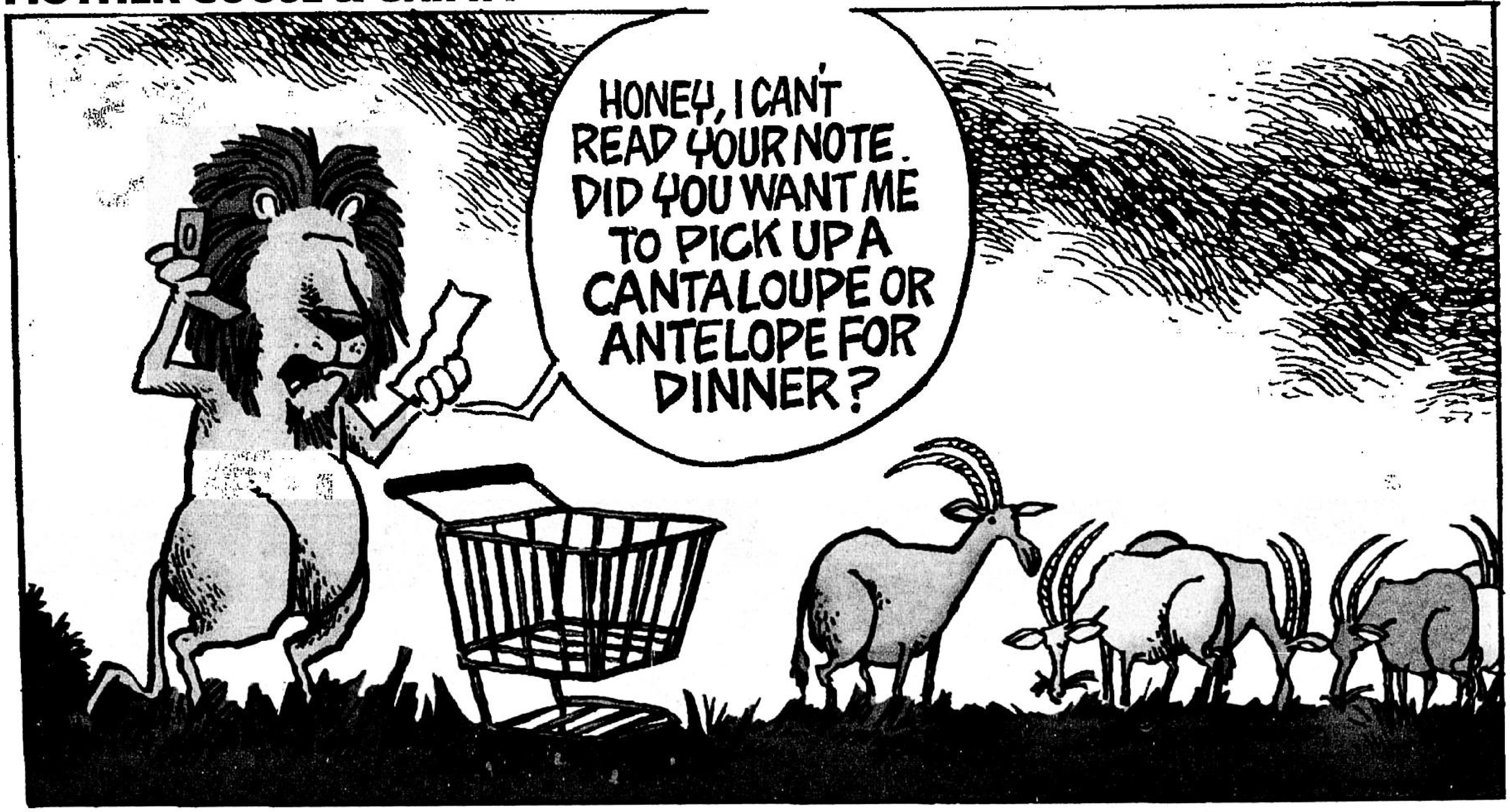
PUGAD BABOY

BY POL MEDINA JR.


DRIVE-THRU NA LANG TAYO PARA HINDI SAYANG ANG ORAS SA BYAHE NATIN.
HINDE SENYORITO, I-PARK N'YO NA AT AKO NA LANG ANG BIBILI...
Pol
Pugad Baboy
KAILANGAN KO RIN KASING MAG-DECOMPRESS.
PFFBFPH...
POK!
Text Pugad Baboy to 2800 for Images.
Text ON PUGAD to 2800 for Pugad Baboy Jokes.
O... ETO NA 'YUNG TAKE-OUT N'YO.
NAALALA KO SA JURASSIC PARK 'YUNG VELOCIRAPTOR NA PINAPAKAIN SA HOLDING PEN.
DAG 228

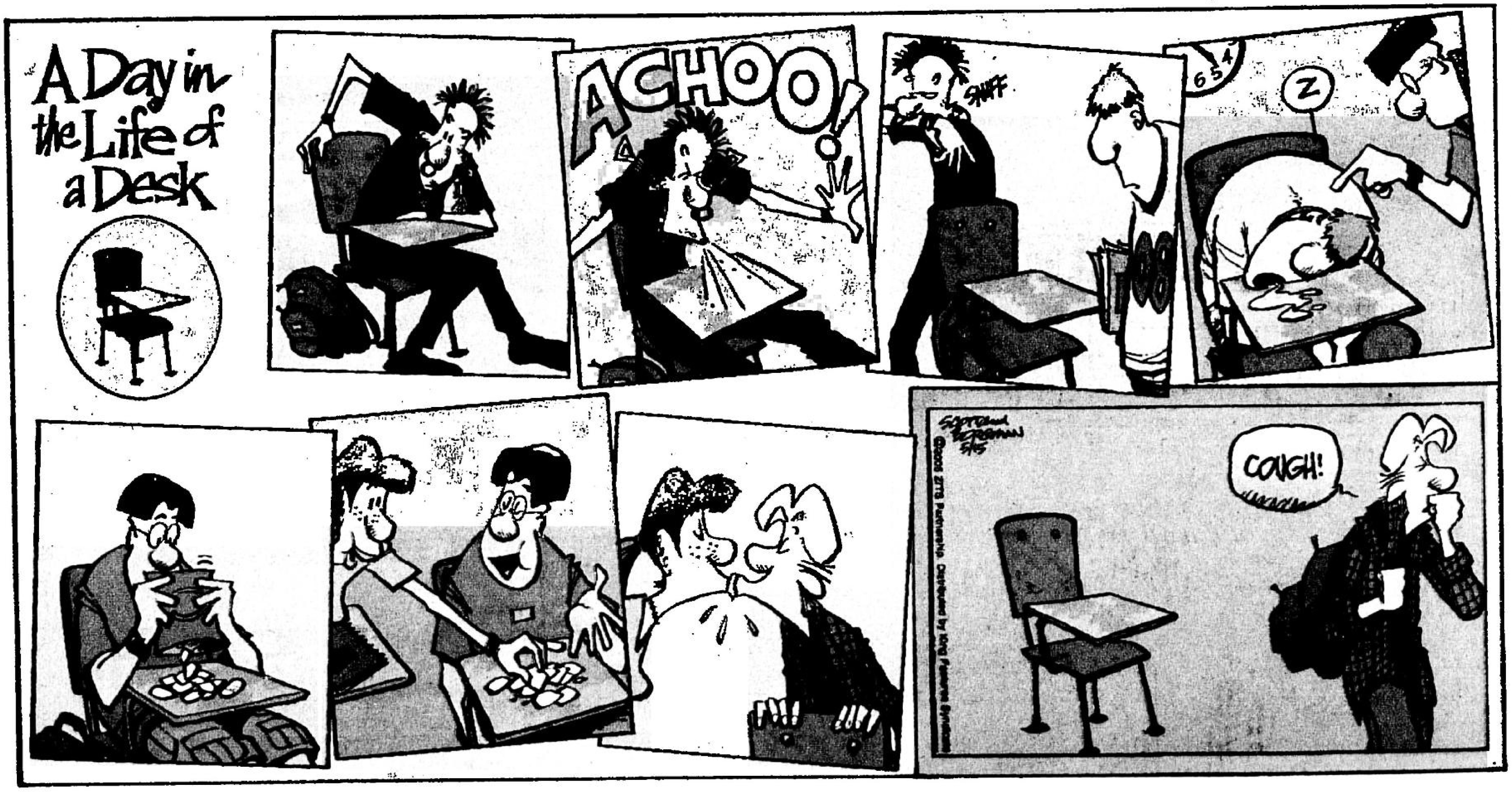
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


HONEY, I CAN'T READ YOUR NOTE. DID YOU WANT ME TO PICK UP A CANTALOUPE OR ANTELOPE FOR DINNER?

ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN


A Day in the Life of a Desk
ACHOO!
SNIFF
6 5 4
Z
COUGH!
SCOTT and BORGMAN 5/15
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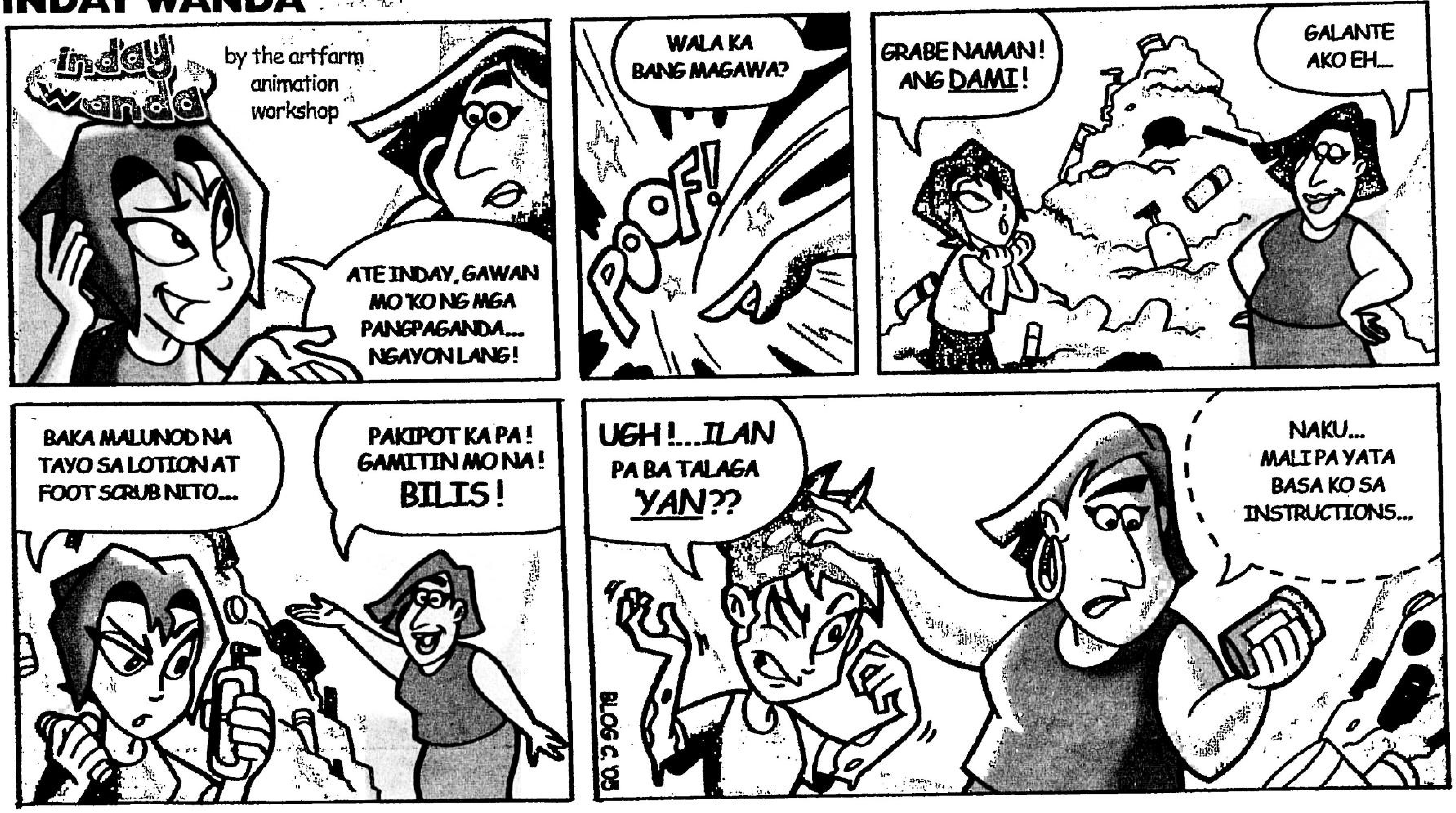
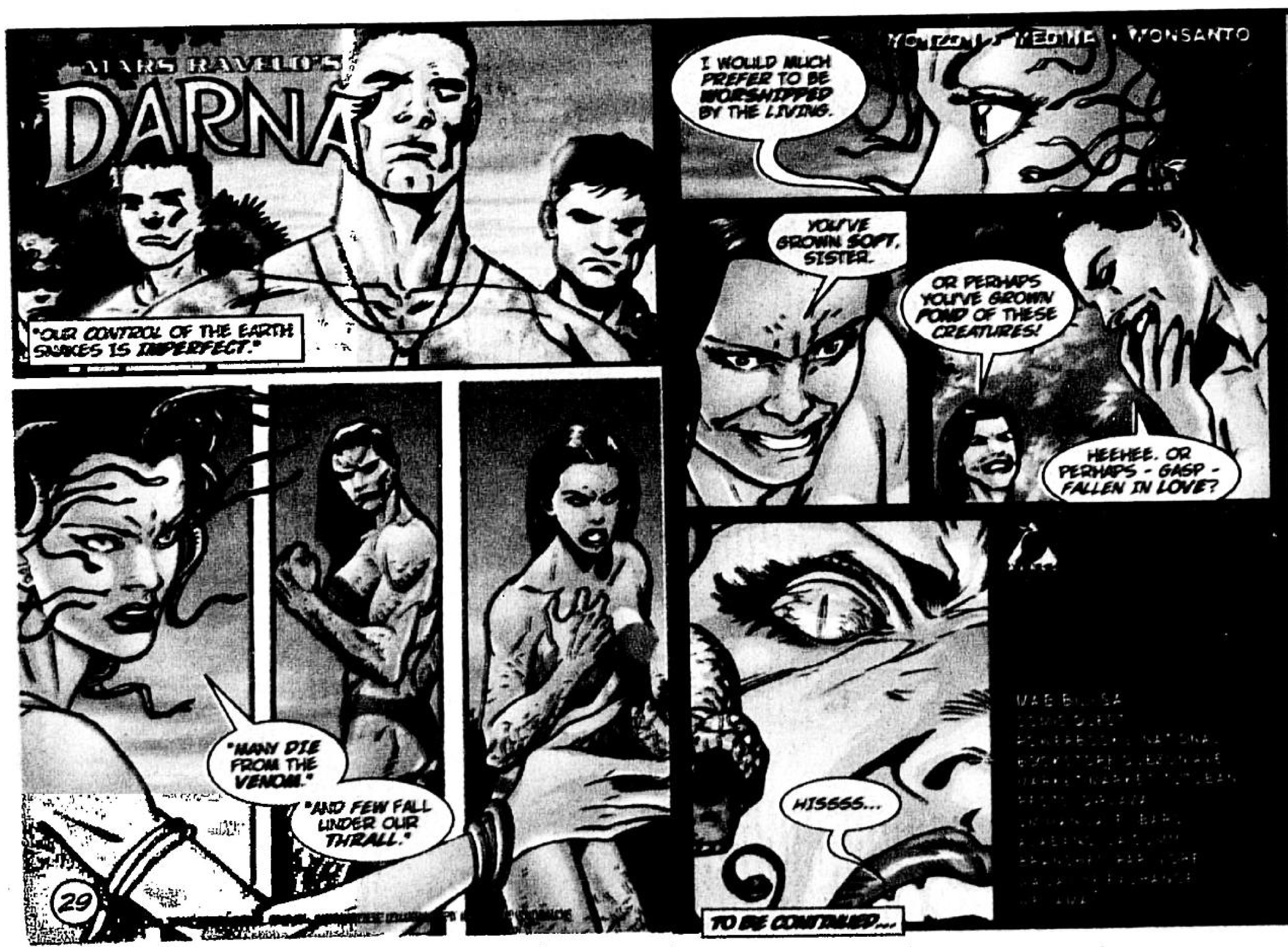
INDAY WANDA

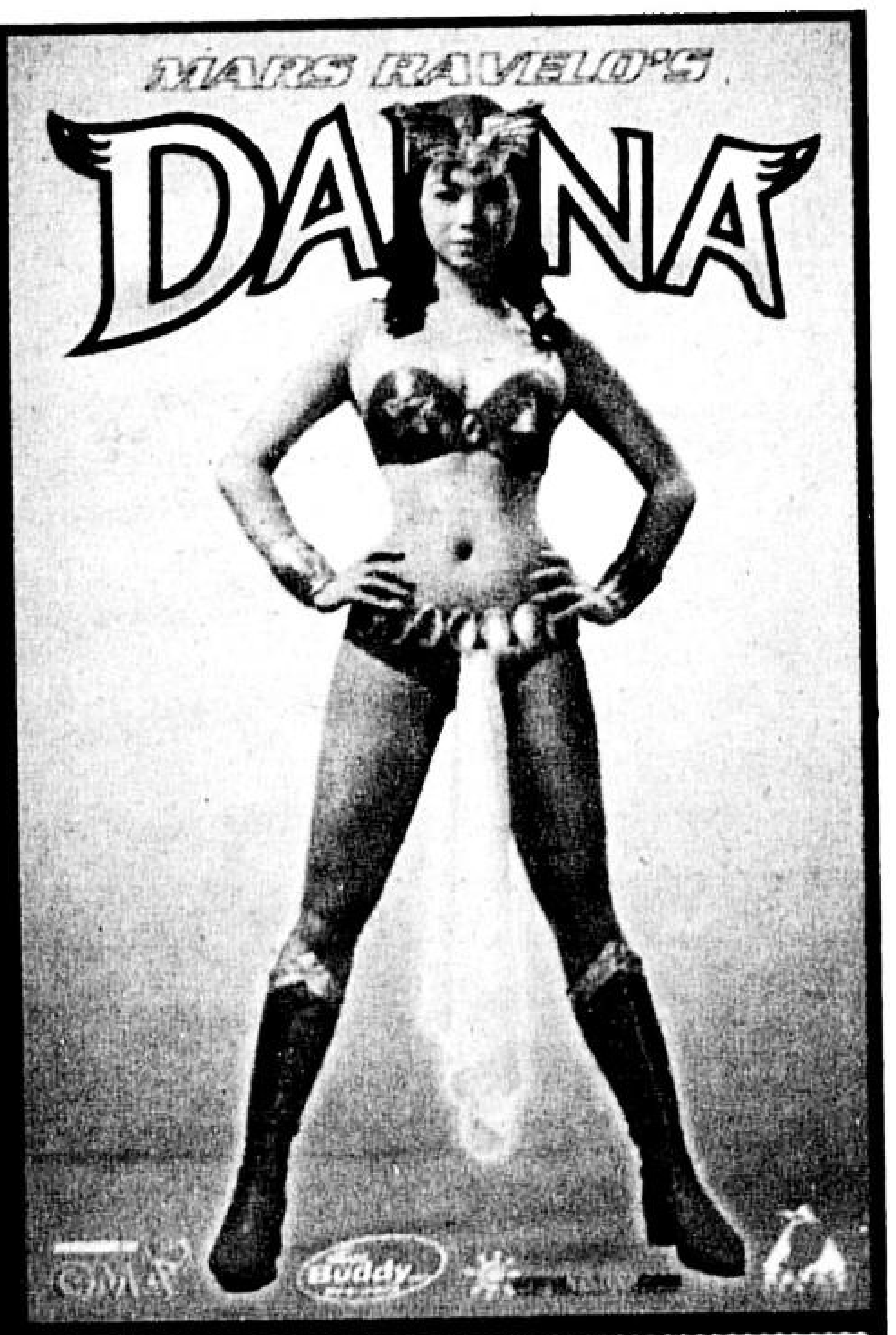
BY BLOG CALIGUIA


inday wanda
by the artfarm animation workshop
ATE INDAY, GAWAN MO 'KO NG MGA PANGPAGANDA... NGAYON LANG!
WALA KA BANG MAGAWA?
POOF!
GRABE NAMAN! ANG DAMI!
GALANTE AKO EH...
BAKA MALUNOD NA TAYO SA LOTION AT FOOT SCRUB NITO...
PAKIPOT KA PA! GAMITIN MO NA! BILIS!
UGH!...ILAN PA BA TALAGA 'YAN??
NAKU... MALI PA YATA BASA KO SA INSTRUCTIONS...
BLOG C.'05

DARNA

BY MANGO COMICS


MARS RAVELO'S
DARNA
"OUR CONTROL OF THE EARTH SNAKES IS IMPERFECT."
"MANY DIE FROM THE VENOM."
"AND FEW FALL UNDER OUR THRALL."
29
MONSANTO
I WOULD MUCH PREFER TO BE WORSHIPPED BY THE LIVING.
YOU'VE GROWN SOFT, SISTER.
OR PERHAPS YOU'VE GROWN FOND OF THESE CREATURES!
HEEHEE. OR PERHAPS - GASP - FALLEN IN LOVE?
HISSSS...
TO BE CONTINUED...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DARNA
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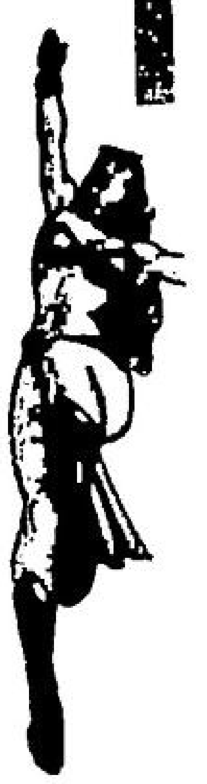
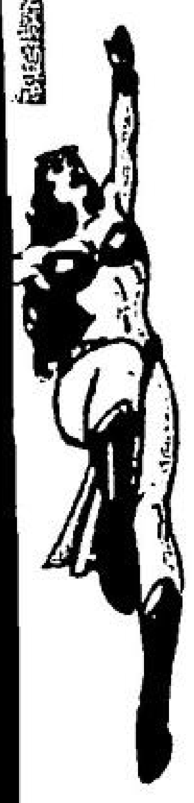
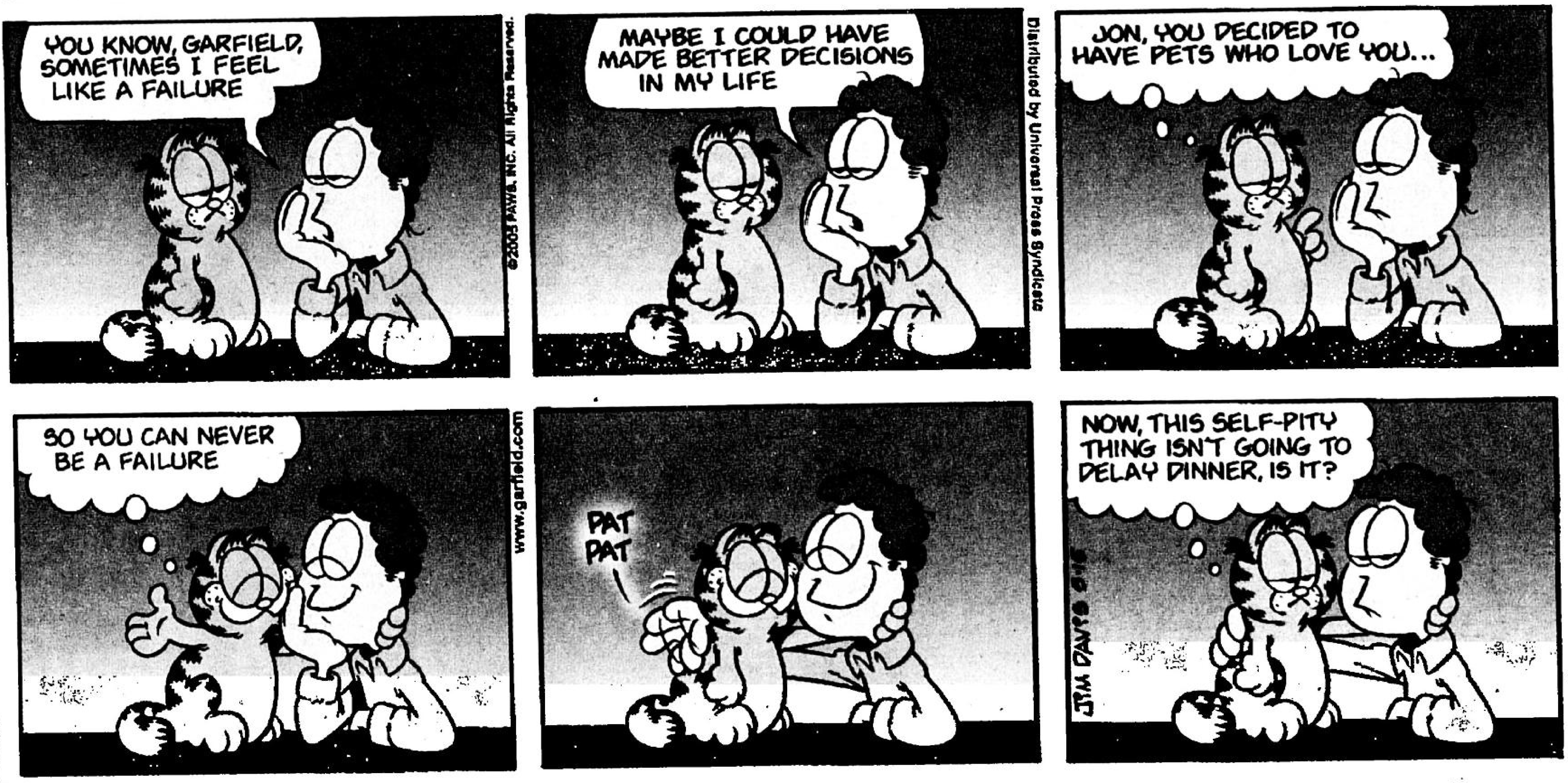


A. FOLD OUT AT CENTER TO GET THE BIG PICTURE



GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


YOU KNOW, GARFIELD, SOMETIMES I FEEL LIKE A FAILURE
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MAYBE I COULD HAVE MADE BETTER DECISIONS IN MY LIFE
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate
JON, YOU DECIDED TO HAVE PETS WHO LOVE YOU...
SO YOU CAN NEVER BE A FAILURE
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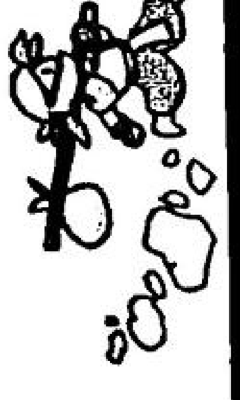
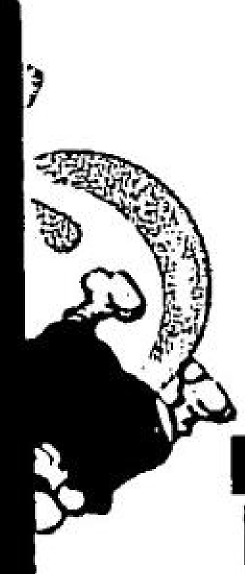
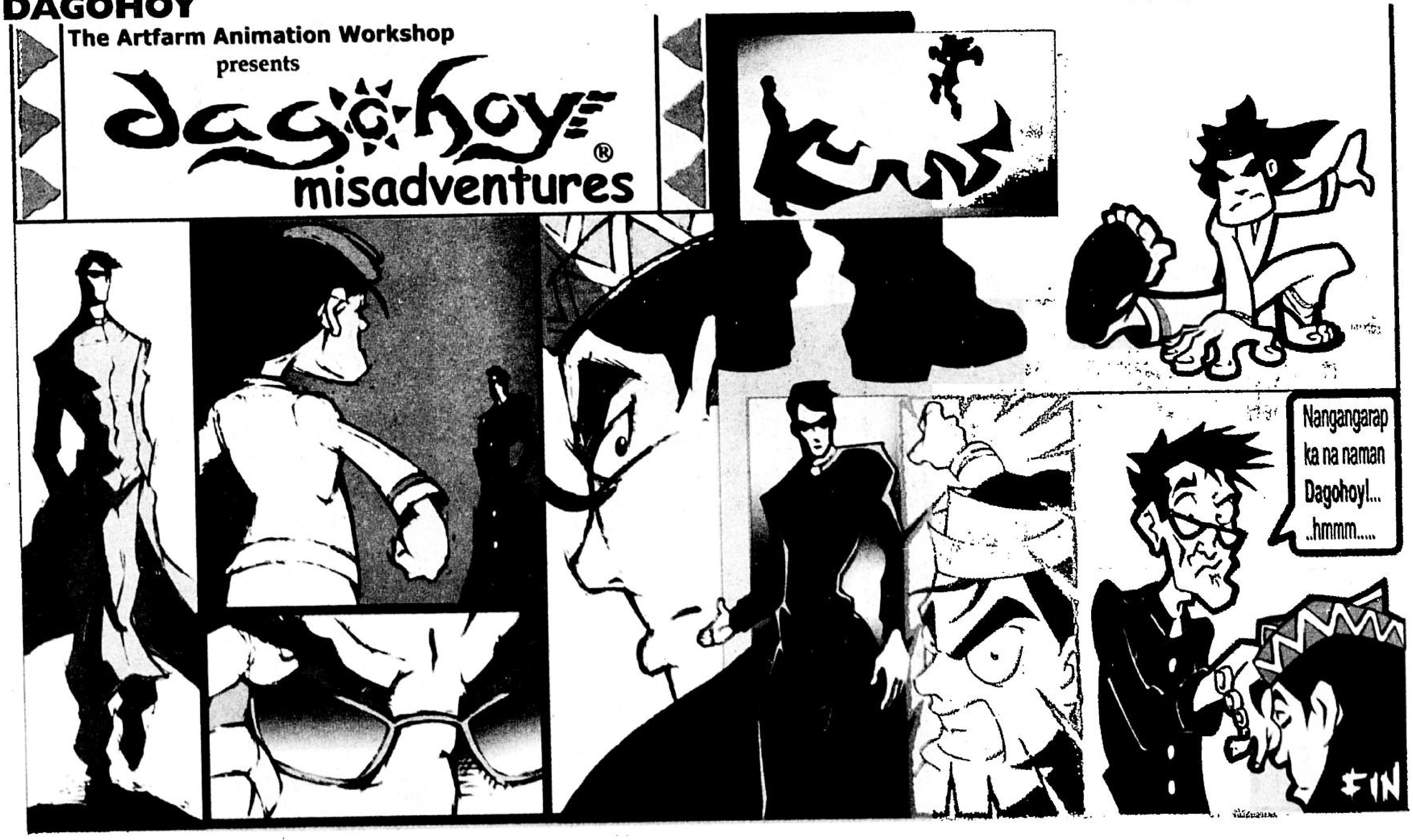
PAT PAT
NOW, THIS SELF-PITY THING ISN'T GOING TO DELAY DINNER, IS IT?
JIM DAVIS 5-15





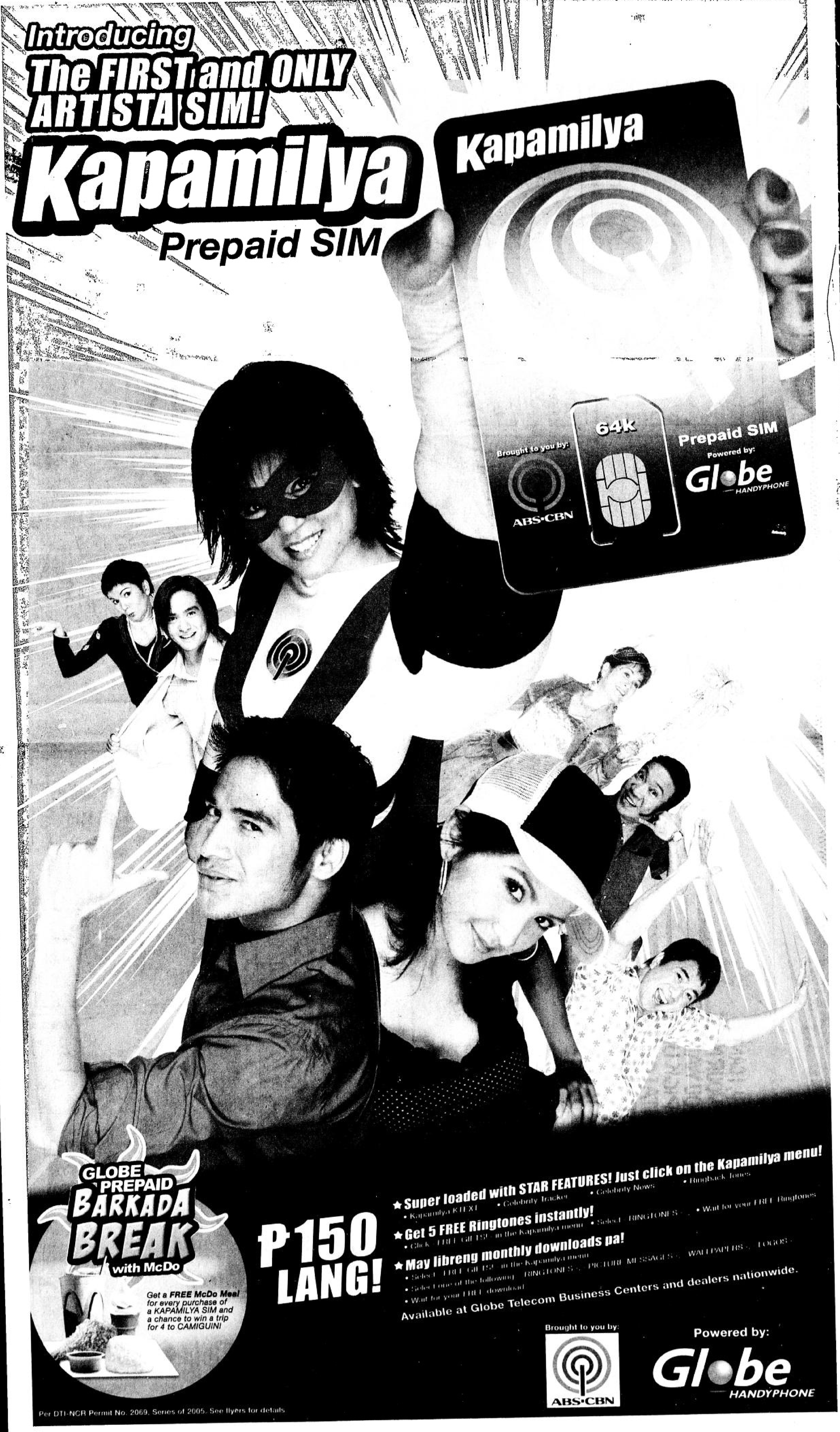
DAGOHOY

BY NELSON CALIGUIA


The Artfarm Animation Workshop
presents
dagohoy® misadventures
Nangangarap ka na naman Dagohoy!... ..hmmm.....
FIN

B. TURN THE PAGE TO GET IT RIGHT

C. FOLLOW THE FOLD TO GET TO MIDGARD



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Story on page K2

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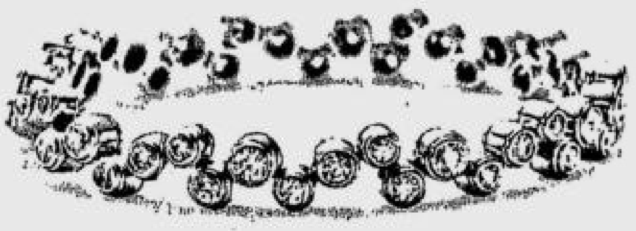

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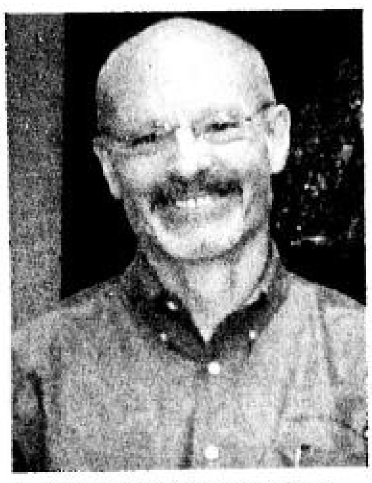

R. KEITH Randolph, Nutrilite senior group leader for Nutrition Science and Services

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Happy people, better products

Text and photos by Vangie Baga-Reyes

GOOD products come from good people who work for good companies.

It may not sound true to others, but for Amway Corporation it makes a lot of sense.

On a recent media tour of Amway world headquarters in Ada, Michigan and its health facilities in Buena, California, we took notice of the loyalty (read: years of service) of the staff that works for the company.

John Faye, corporate communications head for external affairs, has been with the group for 32 years. "My parents were also Amway employees, that's why I always get teased by peers that I'm an Amway baby," he says.

Mark Bain, vice president for corporate communications, has clocked 10 years now, while it's been 13 years for Ania Zdrada, corporate communications specialist. Scott Balfour, the chief counsel for Asia, has been with the company seven years, while Rob Zeiger, director for external affairs, counts five.

What's even more interesting, Amway keeps in its wings a good number of Filipino staff. For 18 years, Luis de la Costa has worked as a technician in the research and development department. He says he has never seen a company as people-oriented as Amway.

"They really take care of their employees by providing good benefits, be it financial or otherwise. Our health and safety are also their topmost concern. To motivate us, if there's no accident in a month, we get free lunches."

Puring David, who's also with the R&D department, has an impressive 14 years' worth of experience with the company. In fact, her exotic Pinay features—pretty, brown skin, long hair—have landed her in most of the company's brochures and promotional materials.

In the Philippines, Ador Bonquin, Amway Philippines' senior country manager, has been working for the group for nine years now. The same with Suzanne Comagon, corporate services manager.

Better opportunities

Given the long years of service of these employees, what does that tell of the company they're working for?

"When we founded Amway 46 years ago, we were already committed to giving the staff better working opportunities and services," says Bain. "We are not a capital-oriented company. We focus on people, on how they can live and improve their lives. We stand by our company motto: 'Helping people build better lives.'

"Thus, we begin with our employees, and their satisfaction is shown by doing their job well, which in turn produces valuable products, to the satisfaction of our clients worldwide."

Amway manufactures and distributes 450 consumer products, ranging from home care, body care, hair care, oral care and skin care (Artistry) to vitamins, food supplements (Nutrilite), household items and agricultural supplies.

Amway has about 13,000 full-time employees worldwide, with jobs ranging from information technology to microbiology, from international affairs to brand management. About 4,000 Amway employees are based in the Michigan headquarters.

Ada, Michigan, is the home of Alticor Inc., the parent company of Amway and its sister companies Quixtar Inc. and Access Business.

"Alticor, the holding company, was established in 2000," says Bain. "But the company's roots date to 1959, when Jay Van Andel and Rich DeVos, a pair of direct-sales veterans and friends since high school, launched Amway."

Van Andel passed away at 80 in December last year. DeVos, now in his 70s, still visits the Amway offices once in a while.

Signature brand

Amway has become one of the signature brands in the over $80-billion global direct-selling industry. It has helped millions of people find a means of self-support by selling products to a network of friends and associates, and sponsoring others to do the same.

Amway's headquarters sit on a sprawling 2.25 million sq-ft. state-of-the-art estate, where most of its product lines, including cosmetics, are manufactured and packaged. It also houses a huge structure for recycling and a building for consumer care service.

The customer care center has more than 300 full-time staff assigned to get orders from clients. Joan Jahr, manager for order management, says 70 percent of these clients place their orders through the Web, while the others use e-mail and phone calls. Still, the center receives about 300,000 calls a month, which are taken care of by its multi-lingual customer care associates who speak Spanish, Korean, Russian and Chinese.

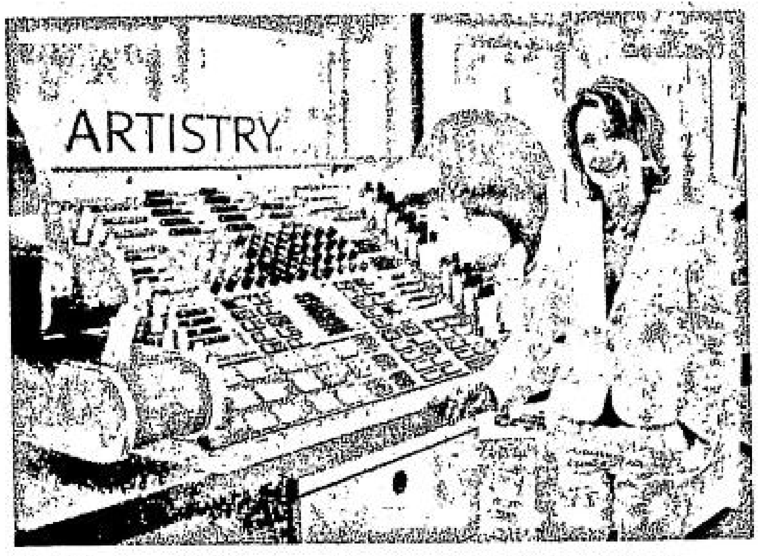
Another sizeable building in the Ada vicinity is the Artistry laboratory, where scientists employ ultra-modern skin-care equipment like skin imaging and digital high-frequency ultrasound to come up with Amway's skin-care products. The high-tech equipment includes instruments that analyze the skin's surface, similar to the technology used by NASA to map the surface of the moon.

Amway headquarters is also where the families of the Amway founders hold office. Bain says the families of Amway co-founders DeVos and Andel still own Alticor, which is now led by sons Doug DeVos, president, and Steve Van Andel, chair. The families are equally represented on the Alticor board.

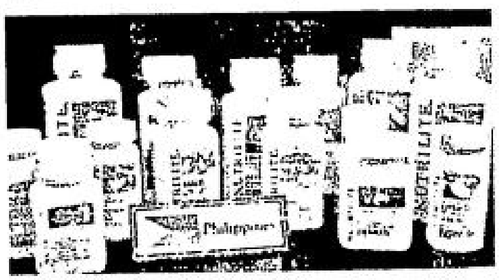
Amway operates on every continent except Antarctica. About 30-million people sell

DOUBLE X
NUTRILITE
2005

DOUBLE X, one of Nutrilite's leading food supplements, will soon be launched in the Philippines.



LIZA Hunter of Artistry Beauty Institute in Michigan presents Artistry's various cosmetic products.



NUTRILITE'S comprehensive line of food supplements available in the Philippines, including Natural Multi-Carotene, Omega 3 Complex, Natural B Complex and Kids' Chewable Multivitamins

VISITOR Center in Michigan features the history of Amway and its people around the globe.

AMWAY customer care service in Michigan receives 300,000 calls a month.

AMWAY world headquarters sit on a 2.25 million sq-ft state-of-the-art estate in Ada, Michigan.

GOOD friends Rich DeVos and Jay Van Andel founded Amway in 1959.

> Amway says taking good care of its people leads to improved lives, valuable products and more satisfied customers worldwide

Amway products to more than 80 countries.

Amway came to the Philippines in 1997, after China in 1995 and before India in 1998.

Top sellers

Two of Amway's biggest sellers are the Artistry and Nutrilite brands. Unknown to many, Artistry is among the world's Top 5 best-selling brands of facial skin-care and color cosmetics, based on a Euromonitor study of global 2003 retail sales. Others in the group include Clinique, Lancome, Estee Lauder and Chanel.

Artistry offers facial-body-skin care products and cosmetics. For skin care, it has whitening, anti-aging and daily skin care lines. For cosmetics, there's a complete line of makeup products in 500 shades to meet the diverse needs of women around the world.

Nutrilite, on the other hand, focuses on health and wellness. A visit to its production haven in Buena Park, California, shows why Nutrilite is now one of the world's leading brands of vitamins, minerals and dietary supplements, based on a survey conducted by Euromonitor International.

Nutrilite, which has a 570,000-sq.ft. manufacturing plant in Buena Park, California, is the only global vitamin and mineral brand to grow, harvest and process plants on its own certified organic farms. Over 100 scientists work night and day at Nutrilite Health Institute to do nutrition research and quality-assurance testing.

"People are at the heart of our business," says Bain. "At Amway, we never stop improving our products because we want to help people live better lives. We'll continue to offer trusted, proven brands that will eventually help people start a business and build from there."

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

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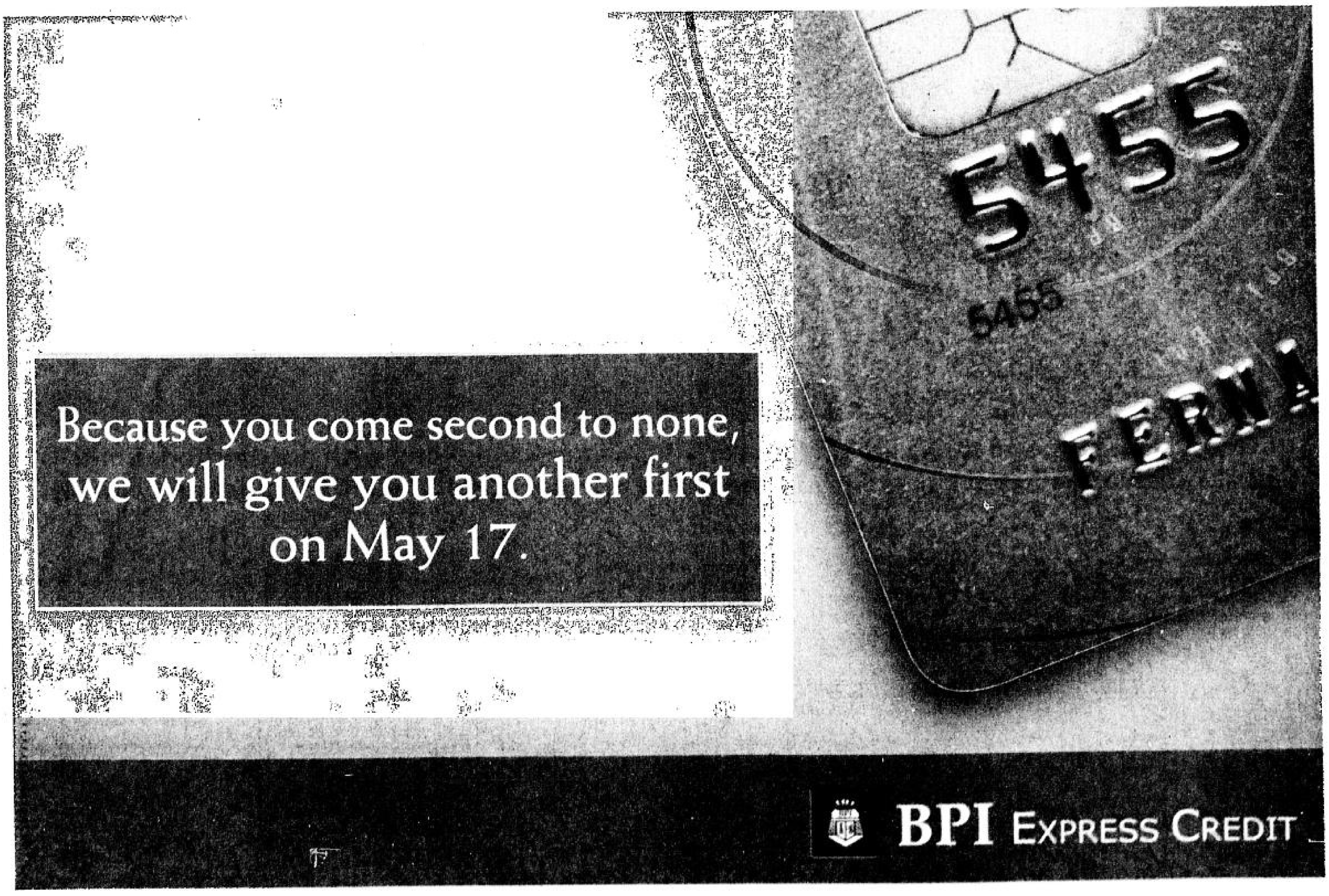

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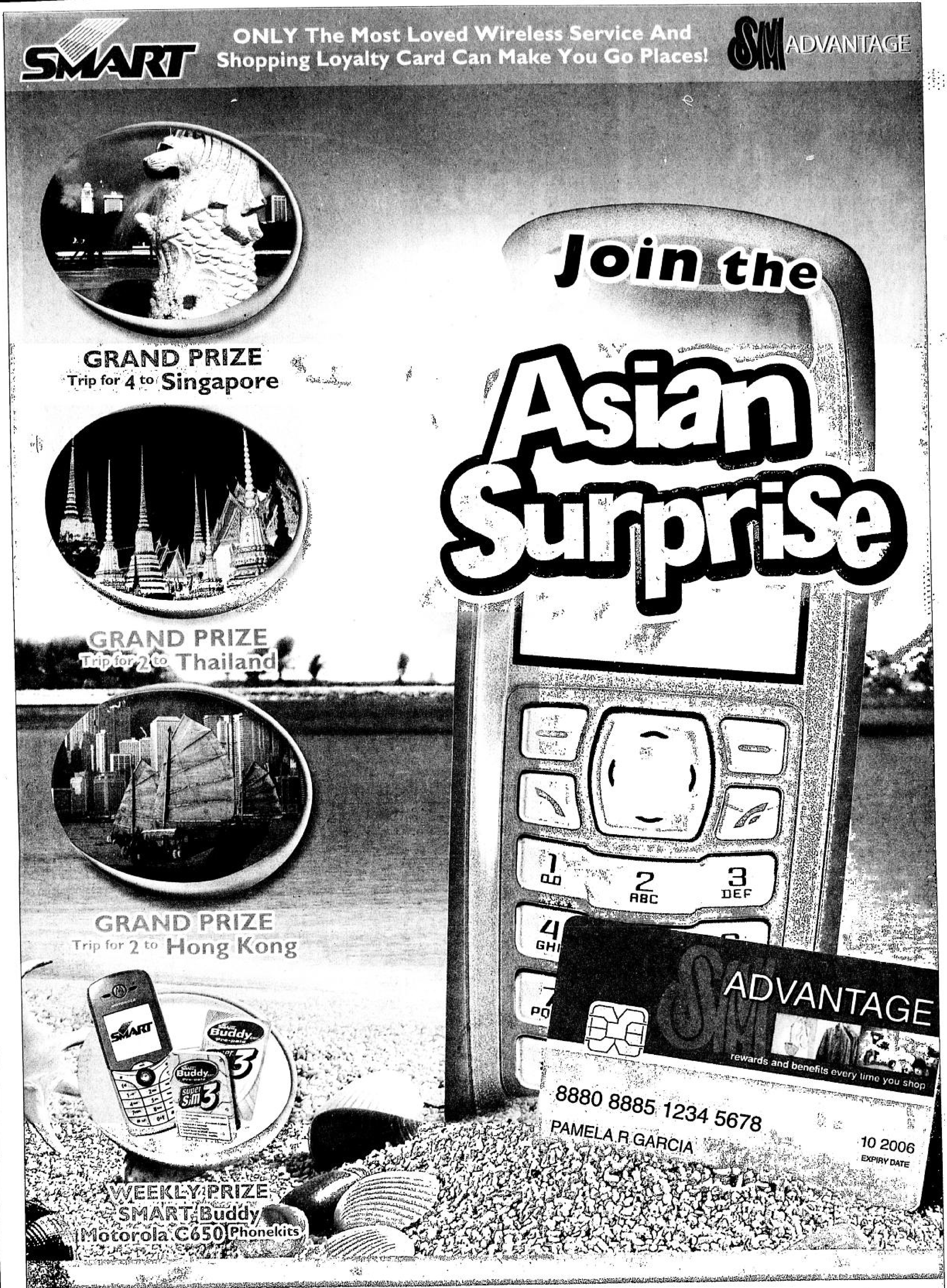
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- Can communicate well in English, has marketing & negotiating skills
- Familiar with furniture industry a plus factor
- Knowledgeable in bank importation procedures, customs requirements & shipping line/ freight forwarder coordination

Interested applicants may apply in person or send resumé with latest 2x2 picture to:

HR Department
CLC Marketing Ventures Corp.
114 Sauyo Road, Novaliches, Q.C.
E-mail at: hrd@clcmv.com.ph

We are in urgent need of candidates for the following positions:

250 PROMODISERS

Female; 18-30 yrs.old; at least 5'2" in height; with good communication skills; proper diction and pronunciation is a must; with pleasing personality and good physical appearance; with strong convincing selling skills; can carry herself well; with fairly clear complexion; should pass the smile test.

20 FACILITIES TECHNICIAN

Male; not more than 40 yrs.old; with strong background in maintaining various facilities equipment such as water chillers, cooling towers, etc.; can read and interpret electrical pneumatic and piping diagrams. Willing to be assigned in Sucat or Laguna area.

Please bring your resume with picture and apply personally at:

HUMAN INTEGRATED RESOURCES EXPERTS, INC.
3/F 8338 Fortuna II Bldg. Sucat Rd., Parañaque City
Tel. Nos. 8265567 to 68; 8252409; 8290079
Email Address: hireinc@skyinet.net

A WELL ESTABLISHED TRAVEL AGENCY NEEDS

ONE (1) TICKET/ COUNTER SUPERVISOR

- MUST HAVE AT LEAST 5 YEARS EXPERIENCE
- MUST BE COMPUTER LITERATE ON GALILEO AND ABACUS CRS
- SALARY NEGOTIABLE BASED ON EXPERIENCED AND QUALIFICATION.

Apply to: THE TRAVEL AGENCY
G/F Parklane Condominium
116 HV. Dela Costa St.,
Salcedo Village, Makati City

WANTED

PROJECT ENGINEERS

Male, Experience preferred
Hardworking, Excellent communication skills
Assertive, Can work with great responsibility Willing to be designated to provinces

ALUMINUM CLADDING INSTALLERS

With experience
Apply in person Mon to Fri 10:00-12:00nn
COMPOSITE PANEL SPECIALIST, INC.
Unit 5 2/F Design Mix Center
#59 Connecticut St., Greenhills San Juan MM
Tel.# 721-1591, 721-1589

JOB Market

VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com

Bellissima Bar & Restaurant

Urgently needs
OPERATIONS MANAGER

* male or female
* with MARKETING background
* 2-3 years experience

Interested applicants may submit resume w/ picture at
3/F The Fort Strip, Global City Taguig
Telephone Nos. 815-8688 to 89
Monday — Friday, 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Look for: Ms.Bambi Sonza

FINANCE & ACCOUNTING MANAGER

- Certified Public Accountant
- With 3 years Managerial experience

For interested applicants, please come for an interview from May 9 to 20,
1 p.m. - 5 p.m. at:

CVG Centre,
#36 1st Avenue Cubao,
Quezon City
Look for Mae Virtuclo

RFC RADIOWEALTH FINANCE CO., INC

We are looking for dynamic & highly competent individuals to strengthen our expanding operations in the financing industry.

HUMAN RESOURCE SUPERVISOR

Female, 25-30 years old / Bachelor's degree in Accountancy required with 3-5 years relevant work experience / Knowledgeable with government mandated benefits such as SSS, Pag-ibig & Philhealth, Salaries & Benefits Administration / Personable with above average interpersonal skills / Proficient in oral & written communication / Computer literate

MARKETING SUPERVISOR

Female, 25-30 years old /Graduate of any four year course /With 3 yrs working experience in Sales & Marketing / Background in Multi Level Marketing (if possible) / Background in branch relationship or group coordination in any industry / Knowledgeable in Program Development (if possible)/ Personable with excellent communication & interpersonal skills / Computer literate / Willing to travel

SYSTEMS ANALYST / PROGRAMMER

Male / 23-27 years old / BS Computer Science or any IT-related course with two years relevant work experience / Personable with above average interpersonal skills / Proficient in oral & written communication

HUMAN RESOURCE ASSISTANTS

Female, 21-25 years old / Single / BS Psychology or Behavioral Science Graduate with commendable scholastic records / Personable with above average interpersonal skills / Proficient in oral & written communication / Computer literate

JUNIOR AUDITORS / ACCOUNTING CLERKS

Male/Female, 21-27 years old / BSC Accounting or BS Accountancy graduate with commendable scholastic records / Personable with above average interpersonal skills / Proficient in oral & written communication / Computer literate / Willing to travel & be assigned in the provinces (for Junior Auditors)

Please send your resume with a 2 x 2 photo and a brief description of your current work & salary or apply personally at :

Personnel & Administration Dept.
2/F Guevent Bldg., 52 Libertad St., Mandaluyong City
Tel No. 531-2354 email : pad@rfc.guevent.ph
Visit our website at www.rfc.guevent.ph

(Previous applicants need not apply)

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(1) WEB DESIGNER

- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science or Information Technology
- Preferably with 2-3 years experienced in Web Developing and Web Hosting
- Can speak and write Chinese language is an advantage but not required

(1) PROGRAMMER

- Bachelor's Degree in Comp. Engineering/Computer Science/ Information Technology. Experienced in Linux, UNIX, PHP, PostgreSQL.
- Preferred skills: Software Development, Database Management and Web Development.

Please send your resumé to job@wingcast.jp
WINGCAST, INC. (www.wingcast.jp) TEL 632-0692
Unit 2008 Antel Global Corp Center, J. Vargas Ave.,
Ortigas, Pasig City (Look for Chris)

SM

If you want your career to go places, join any of our branches and get ready to reach the top of the corporate ladder

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

female/male, not over 35 years old; graduate of any 4 year business course; with 2 years experience in site search for commercial spaces; with experience in market research and analysis and preparation of market study; must be in contact with a pool of credible brokers and shopping malls nationwide; willing to go on field assignments most of the time; computer literate and preferably able to drive

Interested parties may apply personally on Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
or send their comprehensive resumé with recent photo to:

SM Shoemart
SM Corporate Office
Bldg. D 1000 Bay Boulevard, SM Central Business Park
Bay City, Pasay City

Visit our Website : www.sm-shoemart.com
E-mail : Recruit.SM.HO@sm-shoemart.com

(Please bring resumé, 2 pcs. 2x2 colored picture with white background, SSS Number / SSS Employment History print out and photocopy and original copy of Transcript of Records and Diploma)

CITYSTATE SAVINGS BANK EYES 38 NEW BRANCHES IN NEXT THREE YEARS

(Actual headline in a leading newspaper)

A publicly listed bank in the Philippine Stock Exchange is immediately in need of ......

BRANCH MANAGERS

- ❖ Responsible in the over all management of the branch
- ❖ Must have working experience in branch operations
- ❖ Those with existing deposit or loan portfolio are preferred

TELLERS
LOANS OFFICER
NEW ACCOUNTS CLERK
ACCOUNTING ASSISTANTS
MARKETING ASSISTANTS
TREASURY ASSISTANTS

- ❖ Responsible for regular tellering functions, bills payment, Philhealth & SSS collections & ATM loading (Tellers)
- ❖ Responsible in deposit & loan generation as well as account management (Marketing Assistants)
- ❖ Responsible for solicitation of loan accounts (Loans Officer)
- ❖ College graduate & computer literate

CITYSTATE SAVINGS BANK INC.
www.citystatesavings.com

2004 Most Outstanding Savings Bank by Consumers Union of the Philippines
2003/2004 Top Savings Bank by National Consumers Affairs Foundation

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
709 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City, 1600 Telephone No. 636-3333
E-mail Address: hrd@citystatesavings.com

OUR COMPANY, A MULTI-MILLION REALTY COMPANY IS IN IMMEDIATE NEED OF:

A. MARKETING MANAGER

- Male/Female
- 40 years old and above
- Must be well-experienced in marketing especially condominium and subdivisions.
- Must be a graduate of Management or Marketing

B. MARKETING ASSISTANT

- Female
- 21-27 years old
- Must be a graduate of Management or Marketing
- At least one (1) year experience
- Computer Literate (Power Point, Print Shop, Web Editor)

Apply personally and bring Resumé, Transcript of Records & 2x2 pictures at:

RAFELI REALTY AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Unit 715 Royal Plaza Twin Tower, 648 Remedios St. Malate Manila
Tel Nos.: 301-77-85*301-7786*301-77-87
Or e-mail at rafelirealty@yahoo.com

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

THE JOB:
Meet sales production quota by consistent prospecting, canvassing and successful account management

QUALIFICATIONS:
Female, at least 25 years old. Preferably graduate in Engineering, Marketing, Psychology, Management or any related course. Excellent communication skills, self-motivated and results oriented. Experience in sales of telecommunication products, office equipment etc. is an advantage.

To qualified candidates, we offer basic salary, incentives and commissions plus training. Interested applicants may come for interview with BIO-Data and picture starting May 16, 2005 at the following address:

PROSERV COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS
Unit 11-A G/F Century Plaza Bldg.
120 Perea St. Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel. # 812-6279

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infocom

The pioneer in the Philippine ISP industry currently has vacancies for:

Sales Acquisition Specialist

- Bachelor's degree in Business, or its equivalent (may also be a graduate of Computer Science, but must have relevant experience)
- At least 6 months in a similar capacity, experience gained form within the IT/ISP industry
- With above-average oral and written communication, interpersonal relations and sales negotiation skills

Content Engineers (Programmers)

- Bachelor's degree in any IT/computer-related course, preferably Computer Science or Computer Engineering
- 1-2 years experience in Java/C++, database applications, web applications using PHP/JSP/ASP, MySQL, MSSQL, TomCat
- Preferably with experience in mobile game development using J2ME
- Fresh grads are welcome to apply, provided they possess the above qualifications

Content Architects (Designers)

- Bachelor's degree, preferably design-related
- 1-2 years experience in graphic design for print and web mediums
- Proficient in HTML, web scripting; programming knowledge an advantage
- Proficient in 3D animation, Flash, illustration, layout and design
- Knowledgeable in Adobe Photoshop 6.0 or higher
- Fresh grads are welcome to apply, provided they possess the above qualifications

Customer Service Representatives

- Bachelor's degree in any IT/computer-related course
- Must be proficient in Internet troubleshooting, various operating systems and email client software

Corporate Sales Account Manager (Cebu-based)

- Bachelor's degree in any 4-year course, preferably business-related
- At least 2 years experience in sales and marketing; sales and marketing of Internet-related products is an advantage
- Must have excellent communication skills
- Willing to be based in Cebu, and willing to travel to other locations within the country if necessary

Send your updated CV to: jobs@info.com.ph
Indicate the position you are applying for on the subject line.

Or to:
Human Resources
Infocom Technologies, Inc.
3/f PLDT Tower 1, 6799 Ayala Ave., Makati City 1226

We will only respond to applicants who meet the minimum required qualifications.

MSH LEAD

The Local Enhancement and Development (LEAD) for Health Project, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by Management Sciences for Health (MSH), aims to strengthen local government provision and management of family planning (FP) and selected health services (Vitamin A/MCH, TB, and HIV/AIDS), and to improve the policies and financing for these services. The Project will seek to improve the capacity of local government units (LGUs), particularly in cities and municipalities, to meet the needs of their constituents, especially the poor, for FP, TB, MCH, and HIV/AIDS.

The LEAD for Health Project is a three-year contract between USAID and MSH that ends on September 30, 2006. There are two 2-year optional extension periods.

MSH is currently seeking qualified candidates to fill in the position of:

REPORTING AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION SPECIALIST

Duty Station is Manila, Philippines.

OVERALL RESPONSIBILITIES
The Reporting and Information Dissemination (RID) Specialist will manage the implementation of the Project's integrated communication strategy. S/He will work with the Project Performance Monitoring Unit (PPMU) Director and technical staff to identify key audiences and determine the best means of sharing program successes, best practices, and lessons learned on a regular basis. Targeted audiences will include project partners and supporters (Department of Health, USAID) as well as the media and key government, academic, and private sector leaders. The RID Specialist will also be responsible for establishing communication links with the media, partners, and collaborators. S/He will work with the Resource Documentation (RD) Specialist in developing and maintaining a publications dissemination system and will be responsible for reviewing and disseminating project publications, presentations, materials, and technical reports. Lastly, s/he will regularly review and update the Project's communications strategy to ensure that it reflects current needs. The RID Specialist will report directly to the PPMU Director.

SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Support the Project in reviewing all project reporting documents submitted to USAID and oversee and coordinate timely reporting to various agencies, including USAID.
2. Support the Chief of Party (COP) in establishing and coordinating lines of communication with counterparts at USAID and the Department of Health.
3. Ensure all information requests that are received by the Project are responded to and catalogued.
4. Develop and supervise the maintenance of the publications dissemination system
5. Develop standard presentation and publications development templates and train staff in their use.
6. Serve as primary editor and reviewer of project publications, presentations, materials, and technical reports.
7. In collaboration with the RD Specialist, manage the development of a comprehensive project website, serve as key content developer, and oversee design and maintenance aspects of the website.
8. Develop and promote all project successes through print, electronic, and other media.
9. Coordinate with the technical staff and work as a team to implement a broad-based project communications strategy and ensure key successes are communicated with USAID and other key audiences.
10. Ensure that the Project's writing and document production standards and procedures are followed for technical accuracy and editorial quality of all project-related publications.
11. Serve as lead manager of project annual report and ensure timely and quality production and dissemination.
12. Collaborate with the PPMU Director and other technical staff in the conceptualization, writing, packaging, and distribution of project-related technical papers, manuals, and newsletters.
13. In collaboration with technical staff, manage seminars and other outreach programs to share with the public the Project's work.
14. Regularly review and update the Project's communication strategy to ensure that it reflects current needs.

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS

1. Extensive journalism or public relations experience
2. Strong writing skills
3. Demonstrated excellent interpersonal and assertive management skills
4. Prior experience working with health and development programs helpful
5. Computer skills in Microsoft Office programs.

Qualified applicants are requested to send their application letter, with a comprehensive resume showing details of their work experience, academic background, and references not later than May 27, 2005 through any of the following:

Mail : Suite 1101 Ma. Natividad Building
470 T. M. Kalaw Avenue corner Cortada Street
Ermita, Manila

Fax : (632) 521-0950

DOMINIC CONSTRUCTION, INC.
Urgently needs the following:

AIRCON TECHNICIAN

- Familiar with all types and all capacity of aircon units
- With working experience for at least 2 years
- Can troubleshoot
- Can drive & with professional Driver's License

Bring the following requirements: Bio-data, NBI, Police or Brgy. Clearance, Transcript of records, Certificate of employment and TESDA Certificates.

Apply in person at:

229-A Basilan St. cor. Talayan St.,
Mandaluyong City

- URGENTLY REQUIRED FOR AN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

For Possible Employment Abroad

1. **Principal**
   Preferably PHD
2. **Teachers**
   Preferably Master's Degree

- WITH PBET & 5 YEARS EXPERIENCE A MUST
- E-mail detailed CV at
  www.trips_auh_2005@yahoo.com

B1 L12 USH UPS IV, PARAÑAQUE CITY

URGENT!
We need a

CIVIL ENGINEER

That will handle over all technical department with direct reports of around 6-8 supervisors with different project assignments; will train and be directly responsible for the supervisors performance and personal development.

QUALIFICATION: Licensed Civil Engineer w/ a min. of 5 years work experience in a reputable construction company; 30-40 years old; can drive; preferably Male.

BACKGROUND OF THE COMPANY - One of the top landscape firms in the country; franchise of global stamped concrete market leader.

Please bring your Resumé at **2/F Race Bldg. 608 Sierra Madre St., Mandaluyong City or call 7171396 • 5328462**
and look for Ms. Shabs Baylon
E-mail: sadb_bestoption@yahoo.com

NEW ZEALAND

IS OPEN FOR APPLICATION FOR

MIGRANTS

WITH THE FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS:

- A 4-year college degree holder
- 24 to 49 years old;
- 4 to 10 years work experience related to degree
- Spouse who completed any 4-year college degree would be an advantage

FREE ASSESSMENT

OUR SERVICE PACKAGE INCLUDES A NEW ZEALAND RECOGNIZED BUSINESS TRAINING COURSE FROM

GILLIGAN BUSINESS SCHOOL

(www.gilligan.co.nz)

FOR **FREE ASSESSMENT**, YOU MAY CALL, VISIT OR EMAIL US AT:

NZ SKILLS TRAINING SERVICES
Unit 2606 Antel Global Corporate Center, #3 Julia Vargas Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig
Tel Nos: 687-6776; 687-2463 • Mobile No: 0920-925-1374 • Email: nz_skills@pacific.net.ph

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IMMEDIATE HIRING

A Clark based knit export manufacturer needs the following:

SENIOR MERCHANDISER

- Female, below 40 years old
- 10 years related work experience for US brand name, computer literate, fluent English speaking and written
- willing to work under pressure and overtime

CUTTING SUPERVISOR

- Male, below 40 years old
- 10 years related work experience for knitted fabric
- knowledge for consumption and utilization of fabric, ratio making and spreading sheet preparation
- work experience abroad, preferred

SEWING SUPERVISOR

- Female, below 40 years old
- 7-10 years related work experience
- work experience abroad, preferred
- knowledge in operation b/d, quota, line balancing and target output

FINISHING/ PACKING SUPERVISOR

- Below 40 years old
- 7 years related work experience
- work experience in USA brand garment, preferred
- knowledge in revising, pressing, packing, loading and packing list preparation

SAMPLE ROOM SUPERVISOR

- Female, below 40 years old
- at least 7 years related work experience
- can handle the work flow and planning for schedule, knowledge for handling high fashion style is preferred

Please mail your resumé with picture and salary to:

Room LG56, Cityland Dela Rosa Condominium
Dela Rosa Street, Pio Del Pilar, Makati City

MICHAELMAR PHILS., INC.

WANTED

(FOR IMMEDIATE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT ONLY)

TRAINING COORDINATOR (1)

- Male / Not more than 50 years old
- Licensed DECK OFFICER (at least Chief Officer)
- Good oral and written communication skills
- Computer literate
- Knowledgeable in STCW '95 requirements, ISM, ISO, and ISPS Code
- With minimum experience as training coordinator/training officer in a manning agency or a maritime training center

INTERESTED APPLICANTS CAN BRING THEIR PERTINENT DOCUMENTS AND APPLY PERSONALLY FROM MONDAY TO FRIDAY, 9:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M. AT:

MICHAELMAR PHILS., INC.
SUITE 1201-A ERMITA CENTER BLDG.,
1350 ROXAS BLVD., MANILA
TELS. NO. 536-9430 / 536-3708 / 536-3706 / 523-5560 / 526-4995
POEA LIC. NO. 163-SB-011904-R

"previous applicants need not apply"

A progressive member of the printing industry committed to deliver quality information and educational materials using state-of-the-art technology with the highest degree of competence and professionalism, is ucrrently in need of a highly qualified applicant to fill the position of:

ASST. PRODUCTION MANAGER

- Male
- At lest 35 years old
- Graduate of Industrial or Mechanical Engineering, preferably licensed
- Must have relevant experience, at least in a supervisory level gained from a printing company
- Must be familiar with all aspects of print production

Interested applicants may send their comprehensive resumés to:

P.O. Box 2933 MCPO, Manila
or call 5278351 to 55 local 232 for inquiries

Are you migrating to NEW ZEALAND ?

Gilligan Business School

is offering a New Zealand Government Ministry registered, accredited and approved certificate short course on the following:

Small Business Accounting Skills
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Starting Your Own Business in New Zealand
MYOB

For more information, you may call, visit or email us at:

NZ SKILLS TRAINING SERVICES
Unit 2606 Antel Global Corporate Center, #3 Julia Vargas Avenue,
Ortigas Center, Pasig
Tel Nos: 687-6776; 687-2463 • Mobile No: 0920-925-1374
Email: nz_skills@pacific.net.ph
Website: www.gilligan.co.nz

DESIGNS LIGNA, INC.

We are a furniture manufacturer and retailer with over 30 years of exceptional experience, now under 2nd generation, dynamic leadership.

For our domestic retail operations we need the following:

SALES MANAGER with at least 10 years of retail experience dealing with high-end product. Should be knowledgeable in retail systems.

SALES Personnel who have a sincere interest in home interiors. Fluent in English. Mature, willing to work mall hours.

For our manufacturing operations based in San Pedro Laguna, we need:

HR and ADMIN MANAGER with at least 10 years of HR experience. Sincere character, & capable of keeping our team trained & motivated.

ENGINEERS Dynamic, result-oriented, resourceful, a team player and willing to do the extra-mile to support a highly-energetic Manufacturing Team.

Send resumé's and a cover letter explaining why you are the best person for the job to: **dlignahires@designsligna.com** or to one of the Designs Ligna showrooms at:

2nd Floor, Almeda Arcade Bldg., Pasay Rd. Makati City
4/F Cyberzone Bldg. B, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong

NRC

National Relief Charities

Outbound Call Agents

Expanding Philippine Call Center

International relief organization NRC established in 1984 is in pursuit of a select group of talented and experienced individuals for its newest call center in Ortigas Center. NRC offers superior base pay with attendance and performance bonuses, generous vacation days and benefits. Concise training program ensures you will be a productive part of a winning team of dedicated individuals making a difference by helping others. Modern facilities with all new equipment and technical infrastructure. Submit your resume between 08:30am-11:00pm on May 16-19 (Mon-Thurs) at The Prestige Tower, Suite 2504, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center.

Positions Available:

Shift Supervisor
Outstanding & mature individual with at least 2 years of supervisory experience in an outbound call environment. Proficient in H.R., career pacing, QA, team building & must be very organized and able to work independently. Working Knowledge of an Outbound Predictive Dialer is also a must.

Outbound Call Agents
Polite and well spoken individual with top drawer integrity needed for outbound. Must possess excellent English skills, aggressive sales skills, solid work history in an outbound calling environment. Starting positions offer superior base pay, excellent benefits & incentives as well as an astounding bonus package.

Part time Accountant & Administrative Assistant (24 hrs per week)
Degree in Accounting, experience in payroll, general ledger, banking, balancing inventories, etc. Winning personality and independent thinker who will report directly to the General Manager.

Outbound Call Agents (CAR I,II & III)

Qualifications:

- Candidates 24 years of age or older
- Female or Male candidates
- Minimum 1 year of Outbound Center experience
- Stable work history with verifiable references
- Proficient English with neutral accent
- Dedicated and friendly personality

Benefits:

- Base pay superior to other centers
- 25% shift differential
- Yearly vacation
- Plus 1 week paid off for Christmas
- Set schedule of only 4 days per week
- Generous guaranteed performance bonuses
- Friendly team of people helping people

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills
Quezon City
Telephone No. 931-8101 to 07

NOTICE OF VACANCY

In compliance with the provisions of RA 7041, the Department of Social Welfare and Development has a vacant Director III position with the following qualification standards:

(1) DIRECTOR III, SG-27, WITH ITEM NO. OSEC-DSWDB-DIR3-18-1998
(Policy and Plans Bureau)

Education : Bachelor's Degree
Experience : 3 years of supervisory experience
Training : None required
Eligibility : Career Service Executive Eligibility (CSEE)/ Career Executive Service (CES)

Interested applicants may submit their application with their comprehensive resumé with 2x2 ID picture to Undersecretary Lourdes G. Balanon, DSWD on or before May 26, 2005.

(Sgd.) **CESAR A. AQUINO**
Officer-in-Charge
Human Resource Management And Development Service

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visit us at
www.jobmarketonline.com

ATII

ATII is a global provider of nurse education products and services. ATII specializes in a comprehensive suite of standardized entrance testing, registered nursing (RN) comprehensives, and other nursing-related psychometric and review products. Our professionally developed nursing exams assess the student's comprehension and provide nurse educators the opportunity to evaluate the student's knowledge in relation to the nursing process, critical thinking, and competency skills.

We are urgently in need of

CHANNEL MANAGERS

Qualifications

- A bachelor's or master's degree in computer science, business administration, commerce or engineering
- 3 to 5 years in Channels Management and dealing with indirect/ direct sales channels at all levels
- Strong business acumen, ethics and high integrity
- Excellent oral and written English communication skills

Main duties

- Identify, qualify and develop sales channels and channel sales partners to achieve assigned quota and/or exceeding assigned quota and revenue objectives
- Conduct regular sales forecasting meetings; account planning and other related sales tasks with Channel Partners to grow assigned business profitably
- Thoroughly analyze and understand current and potential Channel Partner needs and objectives in order to successfully determine the appropriate solution and create compelling sales positioning capitalizing on the strengths that will meet those needs and objectives.
- Develop and implement sales channels policies and procedures.
- Conduct sales training and develop marketing plans with Channel Partners
- Provide follow-up with sales channels to ensure satisfaction with channel programs and customer satisfaction with products and services.
- Assume responsibilities for channel revenue growth in assigned region.
- Source and stay abreast of competitive industry and market intelligence, providing feedback to support recommendations and to identify developing opportunities.

Qualified applicants may e-mail their detailed resume with recent photo to tson@ati-international.com or send to:

Assessment Technologies Institute International. Inc.
Unit 101 Jollibee Plaza, P. Ortigas Jr. Road
(formerly Emerald Avenue) Ortigas Centre, Pasig City
Attention: Ms. Tania Son

Urgently needed

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

Qualifications

- BS Accountancy graduate
- Knowledge of Peachtree software
- Highly proficient in MS Excel
- Can work with minimum supervision and under pressure
- Highly organized, can adapt to fast-paced work environment

E-mail comprehensive resume with recent photo and transcript of records to jbonifacio@vetyard.com or FAX to 633-49-62

WANTED

(1) CHIEF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT OFFICER

Item No. ILSB-CLEO-2-1998
Salary Grade : 24
Basic Salary : P20,823.00 plus P1,000.00 monthly allowance and P6,000.00
Representation and Transportation Allowance

Minimum Qualification/Requirements:

- Civil Service Eligible (Professional)
- Master's Degree preferably in Economics, Sociology, Business/ Public Administration, Journalism, Mass/Development Communication, Statistics, and other related courses
- Four (4) years in a position involving management and supervision
- Four (4) years experience in conducting social development researches
- 24 hours of training in management and supervision

(1) SENIOR LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT OFFICER

Item No. ILSB-SRLEO-4-1998
Salary Grade : 19
Basic Salary : P16,792.00 plus P1,000.00 monthly allowance.

Minimum Qualification/Requirements:

- Civil Service Eligible (Professional)
- Bachelor Degree preferably in Law, Economics, Sociology, Business/Public Administration, Labor Relations, Journalism, Mass/Development Communication, Statistics, and other related courses
- Two (2) years of research experience (an advantage if in the field of Labor and Employment)
- Eight (8) hours of relevant training

(1) LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT OFFICER II

Item No. ILSB-LEO2-3-1998
Salary Grade : 13
Basic Salary : P11,837.00 plus P1,000.00 monthly allowance

Minimum Qualification/Requirements:

- Civil Service Eligible (Professional)
- Bachelor Degree preferably in Economics, Sociology, Business/Public Administration, Journalism, Mass/Development Communication, Statistics, and other related courses
- One (1) year experience in social development research
- Four (4) hours of training in management and supervision

Qualified parties may personally apply or send their comprehensive resumé to:

The Executive Director
INSTITUTE FOR LABOR STUDIES
5th Floor, Department of Labor and Employment Building
General Luna Street, Intramuros, Manila
Tel. Nos. 527-35-22 • Fax Nos. 527-34-91

NTC-M
NMFPI

NORWEGIAN TRAINING CENTER-MANILA

Is in need of

ONE (1) ELECTRO-TECHNICAL INSTRUCTOR

Who Are We?

The Norwegian Training Center-Manila of the Norwegian Maritime Foundation of the Phils., Inc. (NMFPI) was founded in May 1990 for the purpose of ensuring competent training and to promote quality shipping.

We offer varied courses from Ship and Cargo Handling, Management, Technical; Safety Courses, Welding, and Culinary Courses.

Our faculty of Norwegian and Filipino mariners is trained to teach with confidence, aided by modern teaching aids and methods.

What We Are Looking For?

1. E.C.E. Graduate
2. Preferably with shipboard experience as Electrician.
3. With teaching experience
4. Articulate in English language.
5. Computer literate
6. Willing to stay for at least two years.
7. Not more than 45 years of age.

For applications, please contact either of the following:

Capt. Eddie P. Berueda
Training Manager
Ms. Bisella G. Tani-Salva
Administrative Manager
C/E Richard I. Casilian
Head-Technical Research & Dev. Dept

Address
Norwegian Training Center-Manila
NTC-M Building, Gate 2 TESDA Complex,
East Service Road, Taguig, Metro Manila
Tel No.: 812-07-42
Website: www.ntcm.com.ph
E-mail: ntcm.registrar@ntcm.com.ph

MANAGERIAL/TECHNICAL

MSH LEAD

The Local Enhancement and Development (LEAD) for Health Project, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by Management Sciences for Health (MSH), aims to strengthen local government provision and management of family planning (FP) and selected health services (Vitamin A/MCH, TB, and HIV/AIDS), and to improve the policies and financing for these services. The Project will seek to improve the capacity of local government units (LGUs), particularly in cities and municipalities, to meet the needs of their constituents, especially the poor, for FP, TB, MCH, and HIV/AIDS.

The LEAD for Health Project is a three-year contract between USAID and MSH that ends on September 30, 2006. There are two 2-year optional extension periods.

MSH is currently seeking qualified candidates to fill in the position of:

DEPUTY CHIEF OF PARTY

Duty Station is Manila, Philippines.

OVERALL RESPONSIBILITIES

The Deputy Chief of Party (DCOP) will provide primary support to the functions of the Chief of Party (COP) in supervising the activities and services provided through this contract including managing all technical inputs required in achieving the outputs expected. Through the COP, the DCOP will receive technical guidance from the USAID Cognizant Technical Officer and to some extent from the Department of Health (DOH) Project Manager for LEAD.

The DCOP will be supervised by the COP and will share the responsibility of day-to-day and long-range activities of the contract. The DCOP will assist the COP in tracking, coordinating, and reporting information related to project activities conducted. The COP and DCOP will work closely as a two-person senior team.

SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Supervise the implementation of all project activities, ensuring that performance schedules are observed and outputs are completed and delivered according to schedule.
2. In coordination with the COP, provide principal technical oversight for all policy studies, diagnostic and/or operations research studies, demonstration projects, training and technical assistance needed to formulate recommendations for policy reform measures covered under the contract.
3. With the COP, provide technical supervision and assign technical responsibilities as may be necessary to all long- and short-term consultants working under the contract.
4. Provide overall technical oversight for all work and activities necessary to achieve the objectives, outputs and deliverables expected under the contract.
5. Advocate and support policy development initiatives, seeking support from high level DOH and other Government of the Republic of the Philippines agencies and private sector entities for the technical areas covered under the contract. Ensure timely provision of feedback and guidance concerning the functioning and effectiveness of the various components of the contract.
6. Liaise with the principal policy and decision makers within the DOH, and other government agencies, professional and trade associations, interest groups, and the community at large to assure that Project activities are relevant to the current policy issues and directives being debated in the health community at large.
7. Other assignments as requested by the COP.

QUALIFICATIONS

1. Minimum of a master's level education/ training or its equivalent in Health Economics, Public Health, Public or Business Administration, or a related field.
2. Demonstrated success in a managerial role of a comparable multi-dimensional USAID project, managing professional and financial resources on a similar scale preferred. Familiarity with and understanding of USAID administrative procedures preferred.
3. Direct senior staff supervision experience required. Ability to work closely on a team basis with the COP and senior management.
4. At least seven year's successful previous experience working with national and local governments on the development and/or implementation of health programs both at the national and local levels in the developing world.
5. Demonstrated understanding, thorough knowledge of and familiarity with health systems, health financing, and health program policy issues confronting the Philippines. Successful prior experience in policy and advocacy projects in a developing country, preferably in the Philippines.
6. Significant previous experience in the implementation of FP/MCH/TB/HIV/AIDS programs in the field preferred.
7. Familiarity with principal individuals within the DOH, other government agencies, private/business sector, and the community at large who are responsible for health policy.
8. Familiarity with local government systems and procedures in the implementation of donor-assisted projects, including the management of the health system at the LGU level. Experience working with nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in the delivery of health services.
9. Track record of strong commitment to sharing knowledge, documenting experience, supporting creative initiatives, and sharing credit.
10. Ability to interact productively and proactively with government agencies, NGOs, private sector groups, USAID, cooperating agencies, and donor organizations.
11. Commitment to working closely with MSH/Cambridge and partner organizations on a collaborative basis.

Filipino national preferred.

Qualified applicants are requested to send their application letter, with a comprehensive resume showing details of their work experience, academic background, and references not later than May 27, 2005 through any of the following:

Mail Suite 1101 Ma. Natividad Building
470 T. M. Kalaw Avenue corner Cortada Street
Ermita, Manila

Fax (632) 521-0950

Stairway Foundation Inc.

is a non-governmental childcare organization based in Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro.

We are looking for creative and dynamic people to be part of a team working for the protection of children's rights and against child sexual abuse and exploitation.

We need:

SOCIAL WORKERS
PSYCHOLOGIST
TEACHER
DOCUMENTER/WRITER
and
HOUSE PARENT

High motivation and excellent communication skills are required.
Experience is an asset.

Please submit your application to
stairway@stairwayfoundation.org
Put the position you apply for as subject.

For more information
www.stairwayfoundation.org

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"The Philippine's First School within the Hotel"

One-Month Courses
Housekeeping, Waitering,
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Culinary

One-Year Diploma Courses
Hotel and Restaurant Operation
Food and Beverage Operation

HOTEL SKILLS TRAINING

These are competency – based courses giving emphasis on first hand experience on Hotel & Restaurant Operation with equivalent adequate theoretical foundation. Wholistic approach on each courses seeks to prepare our students to be functionally competitive in the field of hospitality and other service – oriented businesses. Armed with Tesda-Based strategies in grasping standard skills in accordance to the needs of the industry and CHED's thrust and values so as to create awareness and readiness for all economic & job opportunities.

PALM NOUVEAU TRAINING CENTER
3/F Colonial Bldg., Las Palmas Hotel
1616 A. Mabini St., Malate, Manila
Telefax: 524-8535, 521-1000 ext. 203, 8215

WWWExpress
Wide Wide World

an affiliate of

DHL

urgently needs the following:

SECURITY MANAGER (Manila-based)
(CODE: SSMGR)

JOB DESCRIPTION

- Responsible for formulating, implementing and monitoring safety and security rule, regulations, procedures, programs, and plans. Ensures the full protection of all WWW Express Corporation personnel, assets, properties, facilities and equipment nationwide, including shipments entrusted by clients.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Preferably Male, Degree in Business, Criminology or related field.
- At least 3 years experience within a corporate security background at management level.
- Excellent interpersonal skills, with the ability to establish and maintain excellent relations with a wide variety of individuals and organizations.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills, with the ability to write reports.
- Flexible to work outside office hours, including weekends, when required.
- Computer literate
- Physically fit and of good moral character.

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS SPECIALIST (Manila-based)
(CODE: C&B)

JOB DESCRIPTION

- Responsible for the planning, guiding, coordinating, and controlling of the Job Evaluation, Salary Design and Benefit Design, continuous review and evaluation of existing benefits, compensation and other related areas. Conducts studies linked to compensation administration and benefits planning and management. Sees to it that job functions are reviewed and updated.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Male / Female, not more than 30 years old.
- Graduate of Psychology, Statistics, Mathematics, or any business and finance course.
- With proven relevant work experience in HR-C&B areas.
- Highly proficient in using MS Office applications, particularly MS Excel, and other MS Office programs. Knowledgeable in software programming is an advantage.
- With above average communication skills (written and spoken).
- Can interact with people regardless of organizational level.
- Hardworking and can work effectively with minimum supervision.
- Physically fit and of good moral character.

IMPORT-EXPORT SUPERVISOR (Manila-based)
(CODE: IMPEX SPVR)

JOB DESCRIPTION

- Responsible in organizing, leading, and monitoring WWWExpress' Seafreight Import and Export activities. Ensures compliance with the standard operating procedures and government regulations. Sees to it that excellent quality of service is extended to all clients.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Male, College graduate with at least 2 years supervisory experience in seafreight operations.
- Must be able to demonstrate positive customer relations
- Hardworking and can work effectively with minimum supervision
- Can effectively communicate with people at all levels
- Computer literate
- Physically fit and of good moral character

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
for

Metro Manila (CODE: AE-MNL)
Malolos (CODE: AE-MAL)
Laguna (CODE: AE-LGN)
Batangas (CODE: AE-BGS)
Cebu (CODE: AE-CEB)
General Santos (CODE: AE-GES)
Davao (CODE: AE-DVO)

JOB DESCRIPTION

- Responsible for selling and promoting WWWExpress domestic services; maintaining existing accounts and developing new accounts for the company. Conducts regular sales calls and attends to clients' needs.

QUALIFICATIONS

- College graduate, preferably business related courses
- With proven relevant experience, skill, and training in sales
- With pleasing personality; presentable, confident in manner
- Must be able to communicate effectively (written and verbal) to all types of people
- Aggressive and with excellent negotiating skills
- Computer literate
- Willing to do field work and be assigned in branches indicated above (preference will be given to applicants who are resident of the provinces mentioned)
- Physically fit and of good moral character

CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENT (Manila-based)
(CODE: CSA)

JOB DESCRIPTION

- Responsible for booking shipments and providing tracing status of all incoming and outgoing shipments. Attends to customer / client inquiries and problems regarding their shipments.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Graduate of four-year course; not more than 28 years old
- With at least 2 years relevant experience in customer relations
- Willing to work in shifting schedule
- With excellent oral & written communication skills
- With excellent interpersonal skills
- Computer literate
- Hardworking and can work effectively with minimum supervision
- Physically fit and of good moral character

Interested applicants must submit their comprehensive resume, preferably with scanned 2x2 color picture, at hiring.now@wwwexpress.com.ph. Kindly indicate applied position as your subject.

Or send it to the Human Resources Department, Wide Wide World Express Corporation, Pascor Drive Sto. Niño, Parañaque.

For immediate processing of application, applicants are encouraged to submit the above mentioned requirements on or before May 29, 2005.

A LEADING PUBLIC RELATIONS FIRM IN MAKATI

URGENTLY NEEDS THE FOLLOWING PROFESSIONALS

PR DIRECTOR

A Senior PR Practitioner who has at least 3 years experience in public relations work in an agency or a company pr department

PR ACCOUNT MANAGERS

Young and aggressive professionals who have actual work experience in pr or marketing and would like to do account management for our clients

WRITERS

We need young and creative people who would love to write feature stories and interviews our clients and their various corporate events.

IF YOU ARE A COLLEGE DEGREE HOLDER, NOT OVER 35 YEARS OLD AND BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE QUALIFIED FOR ANY OF THE ABOVE POSITIONS, PLEASE SEND YOUR BRIEF BUT COMPREHENSIVE RESUMÉ, WITH RECENT PHOTO AND SAMPLES OF WRITTEN/PUBLISHED MATERIALS TO:

P.O. Box 1294, MCPO, 1252 Makati City

THESE ARE URGENT REQUIREMENTS SO WE WILL GIVE PRIORITY TO APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY MAY 31, 2005.

IEMI INNOVATIVE EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS, INC.
urgently needs

In-house Editors / Copy Editors
- college graduate, preferably English/Science major
- proficient in oral and written English & Filipino
- preferably with experience in a book publishing company

Typesetters / Layout Artists
- college graduate, preferably of any computer course
- proficient in Pagemaker, Photoshop, Coreldraw
- preferably with experience in a book publishing company

Illustrators
- college graduate, preferably of Fine Arts or any related course
- preferably with experience in a book publishing company

Apply in person with resumé & ID picture
at 2356 Syquia St. Sta. Ana, Manila
Tel. Nos. 5635425 • 5612430
9-11 AM/1:30-4:00 PM

DUNKIN' DONUTS®
Pasalubong ng Bayan™

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTIONS MANAGER
- Candidate must be a graduate of 4-year Business Management related course
- Not more than 35 years old; with at least 3 years experience in the same capacity
- Responsible in the system improvement of production and distributions covering product projection, delivery schedules, supply procurement and stocking and sanitation

ARCHITECTURAL & CONSTRUCTION MANAGER
- Male; not more than 35 years old, licensed Architect
- With at least three (3) years experience in conducting project inspection, preparation of written progress report update and implementation of construction plans
- Responsible in reviewing the construction plans of the Franchisees
- In charged in the accreditation of contractors for architectural designs, planning and construction of outlets

TECHNICAL SERVICES MANAGER
- Candidate must be a Licensed Mechanical/Electrical/Civil Engineer
- Not more than 35 years old
- Must have at least 3 years experience in preventive maintenance program, engineering designs and computation for the systems technical requirements.
- Responsible in overseeing the maintenance of production centers and outlet's equipment thru sub-contracted parties

SYSTEM STANDARDS MANAGER
- Candidate must be a graduate of any 4- year business related course preferably Food Technology, Chemical Engineering, Chemistry and Hotel & Restaurant Management.
- Not more than 35 years old
- With minimum 3 years experience in the food service industry in a managerial capacity
- Responsible in ensuring the standards compliance of all outlets and production centers

DEALERSHIP AND CHAINSTORE PROMOTIONS MANAGER
- Candidate must be a graduate of any Marketing related courses
- Not more than 35 years old
- With at least 3 years experience in the same capacity
- Responsibilities include the preparation of strategies for expansion, recruitment of corporate tie-up of Chainstore and Individual Dealers

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT MANAGER
- Candidate must be a graduate of any Marketing related courses
- Not more than 35 years old
- With at least 3 years managerial experience in product development specifically in fast food establishment/quick service restaurant
- Responsibilities include the development of product, re-development of existing products, conceptualization of new product to be developed and product presentation prior to launching

ARCHITECT
- Male, BS Architecture graduate; licensed Architect is an advantage
- Not more than 35 years old
- With experience in the same capacity
- Responsible in assisting the Architectural & Construction Manager in the preparation of all construction plans and architectural designs.

Interested applicants are requested to apply in person or send comprehensive resumé with transcript of records, most recent ID picture, certificate / clearance(s) from previous employer to:

People Resources Department/733 Aurora Blvd.,
Quezon City (in front of Old Pepsi Plant)
E-mail address: hrd_job_ads@yahoo.com
Look for: Ms. Irma M. Victoria or Ms. Eya S. Palad

DUNLOP

IS LOOKING FOR QUALIFIED PERSONNEL TO FILL UP THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

BOOKKEEPER

Female/Accounting Graduate
Not more than 27 yrs. Old, computer literate
Can work diligently with minimum supervision
With good oral and written communication skills
Pleasing personality, trustworthy and hardworking
Very organized & responsible
CPA preferred but not required

SALES SUPERVISOR/MANAGER

Proven track record in sales and business development
Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
Preferred to have sales experience in tires
Committed to work and grow with the company
Must be able to build new accounts and manage good relationship with clients
Must be a team player and people oriented
Must be self motivated and results driven

SALES AGENTS

Aggressive, good PR skills
Extensive background experience w/ corporate sales
Goal & performance oriented
Will be assigned to do fieldwork

TIRE ADJUSTER/ENGINEER

Male, with knowledge and experience in tires
Pleasing personality and customer oriented

Interested applicants may send resume, 2x2 pic & transcript to:

TYREMART, INC.
347 Ortigas Ave., Greenhills East, Mandaluyong
Tel.# 727-6150/53

AMORE **Alliance for Mindanao Off-Grid Renewable Energy**

A rural electrification project being implemented by Winrock International, a non-profit organization, is in need of highly qualified and responsible person to occupy the position of:

FINANCE MANAGER
(Manila-based)

Qualifications:

- A degree in Accounting or Financial Management; CPA; preferably with MBA or Law units
- At least five years experience in financial management of USAID contracts
- At least 5 years of senior-level professional experience in all facets accounting work
- Excellent working capabilities with Accounting and other computer software packages; computer literate (Windows/XP applications- MS Office)
- Excellent command of the English language (written, oral, and comprehension)
- Experience with NGOs and/or private firms active in development
- High sense of responsibility, maturity and professionalism
- Exceptional leadership/managerial, interpersonal and organizational skills
- Team player
- Self-starter and able to work independently
- Willing to travel to Mindanao

We are searching for flexible, motivated and mobile individuals. Qualified and interested applicants are requested to send their comprehensive resumé with their recent 2x2 color ID photo to:

The HR/Admin Manager
ALLIANCE FOR MINDANAO OFF-GRID RENEWABLE ENERGY (AMORE)
Unit 1501 Jollibee Plaza, Emerald Avenue
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

A Well-Established, Country's Leading Importer of Wines is looking for immediate hiring:

ACCOUNTANT/BOOKKEEPER

- Male/Female, between 21-27 years old
- With Bachelor's Degree in Accounting
- Preferably with 1-2 yrs. work experience
- Computer literate
- Able to work under pressure

Interested applicants may hand carry their comprehensive resume with 2 x 2 color Photos, NBI Clearance, Transcript of Records to: 7435 Yakal St., Southway Condo.,San Antonio Vill.,Makati or: Email: titaniawinecellar@yahoo.com or Fax: 894-1378

MANAGERIAL/TECHNICAL

APPLE & EVE

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

- College degree in business administration, finance, accounting or related field
- Experience in accounting or related field, demonstrating increasing levels of responsibility
- Ability to collect, organize, and synthesize information in a logical manner
- Strong analytical and problem solving skills
- Strong Excel and Word skills
- Initiative, enthusiasm and intellectual

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

- College degree in business management, human resources or related field
- Female, 23-29 years old
- 2-3 years related Human Resources experience
- Ability to travel periodically as needed for training and recruitment
- Outstanding communication skills
- Comfortable conducting presentations to groups of all sizes
- Strong leadership/analytical/problem solving skills

SENIOR DESIGNER

- College degree in Fashion Design or related field
- 3-5 years design experience
- Expert design and conceptual skills
- Excellent sense of style and color
- In depth knowledge of silhouettes, fabrication, color ways, sewing techniques, graphics and trim
- Excellent organizational, time management and communication skills

MERCHANDISE AND OPERATIONS ASSISTANT

- College degree in business management or related field
- Strong organizational and follow up skills
- Ability to manage multiple tasks at one time
- Strong ability to identify and execute priorities with a sense of urgency
- Ability to work independently and as a team member
- Must have advanced Word, Excel and PowerPoint skills
- Pro active approach to responsibilities

SALES MANAGER

- Bachelor's degree required
- Female, 23-29 years old
- 3-5 years experience in account management or retail marketing
- Ability to apply strategic thinking to Brand Marketing
- Strong project management and creative account management experience
- Desire and ability to work in fast-paced, dynamic and creative environment
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Flexible, responsive, detail-oriented and has commitment to deadlines
- Ability to lead, motivate and manage team

STORE MANAGER

- Bachelor's degree required
- Female, 22-29 years old
- 2-3 years experience in sales, marketing or related field
- Ability to work a flexible schedule to meet the needs of the business
- Strong leadership and motivational ability

Qualified applicants may send their resumé to:

APPLE & EVE
Human Resources Department
#10 J Caparas St. Bgy Ugong, Pasig
Or email to: hr@apple-eve.com

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

551 M.F. Jhocson Street, Sampaloc, Manila
Tel. No.: 749-8221 743-7951 Fax No.: 749-8209

INVITES APPLICANTS to teach in our College of Architecture

- licensed with Master's Degree
- to teach professional subjects

INVITES APPLICANTS to teach in our College of Nursing

- to teach professional subjects in the second year and third year levels
- full time and part time
- must be licensed with MAN

APPLY IN PERSON AT 551 M.F. JHOCSON ST., SAMPALOC, MANILA; 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, 2:00 - 5:00 PM. PLEASE BRING RESUME/ COMPLETE TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS AND COPY OF PRC LICENSE

NU ALUMNI ANNOUNCEMENT

105th National University Alumni Homecoming, Convention, Election and Grand Ball. July 30, 2005 @ 8:00 am, NU Campus/@ 6:00 pm, Officers Club, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Contact person: Engr. Rolly Roque @ 0917-8463473 E-mail: rgroque@radian.com.ph or visit NU Website: http://www.nu.edu.ph/

WANTED

FIVE (5) ACCOUNTING STAFF

Urgently needed for the expansion and on-going reorganization of a CHED recognized School in Metro Manila

Qualifications:

- BS Accountancy Graduate (or BSC Accounting)
- Female, Single
- Hardworking

Send application letter with transcript of records and brief Bio-data to:

THE FINANCE OFFICER (Ms. Ditas)
869 E. Quintos St., Sampaloc, Manila

MEDIA CONVERGENCE INC.

A leading provider of Broadcast and multimedia Technologies in the Philippines is urgently in need of:

SALES ENGINEERS

Qualifications:

- ECE, COE, IT, Electronics Graduates
- With or without Sales experience
- With Good communication skills
- Fluent in English and Filipino
- Computer Literate
- Highly motivated and determined
- Aggressive
- Can work with minimum supervision
- Willing to travel

SUPPORT ENGINEERS

Qualifications:

- ECE, COE, IT, Electronics Graduates
- With Good communication and time management skills
- Fluent in English and Filipino
- Computer Literate (knows how to do technical designs)
- Highly motivated and determined
- Can work with minimum supervision
- Willing to travel

Submit resumés personally at Room 303 Golden Sun Realty Corporation, #29 Mindanao Avenue, Pag-asa, Quezon City.

MOOG

We are an organization based in the state of New York U.S.A., a recognized world leader in the design and manufacture of high performance precision control systems for commercial aviation and industrial use. Our manufacturing facility at the Baguio Economic Zone is inviting applications for the following:

BENCHWORK FINISHERS

The job calls for a person capable of performing various hand deburring on valve, actuator and machine parts using hand motors, abrasives & hand tools, to ensure burr free/dirt free condition on parts. Person would perform sub-assembly with engineering procedures as may be assigned, and be responsible for quality of work & minor gage & equipment maintenance.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- A high school graduate
- With one (1) year work experience in trades requiring fine eye-hand coordination on small detailed parts
- Possesses manual skills in working with the manufacture of small to medium sized parts
- Has the ability to work with instructions, engineering procedures and operation sheets
- Capable of light to medium physical demands

ASSEMBLY TECHNICIANS

The job assembles, according to strict quality and engineering specifications, electro hydraulic and pneumatic servo control components and products. A variety of hand tools fixtures, mechanical measuring devices, electronic test instruments, and hydraulic equipment is used: working from engineering drawings and instructions.

QUALIFICATIONS:
Educational background in instrumentation, electronics, electrical or mechanical fields, either as:

- a graduate of a 3-year technological course; or
- a graduate of a 2-year trade course with at least 1 year related work experience; or
- a graduate of a 6-month vocational course with at least 2½ years related work experience; or
- Having completed at least 3 years engineering with at least 1 year related work experience; or having completed 4 to 5 years engineering.

JUNIOR MACHINE OPERATORS

The job entails operating and inspecting part outputs on a variety of CNC and/ or conventional machine shop equipments i.e., drills, CNC lathes/mills, reams, etc.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Three (3) year mechanical/technical/BSIT/BSIE major in machine shop; or High School graduate with general machine shop; or three (3) year engineering with technical mechanical subjects
- For High School graduate with general machine shop course completed, at least two (2) years exposure in related machine shop production activities
- Has skills in blueprint reading, interpretation of charts, usage of basic shop measuring instruments
- Has special knowledge of machining principles and shop mathematics

MACHINE OPERATORS

The job entails the performance of a complete range of grinding/turning, drilling, tapping, boring, burnishing, reaming operations on all computer numerical controlled or manual machines. Make all types of set-ups including fixture alignment and settings of tools and stops. Work from part drawings, operation sheets, program sheets. Check for tape errors and worn or defective tools. Manually operate machine independently of tape by dialing in proper information on control panel when required. Inspect own work and use all types of inspection equipment available. Run more than one machine at a time when conditions permit. Set-up machines train and provide guidance for new CNC operators.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- 3 year Mechanical Technology/BS Industrial Technology/BS Industrial Engineering major in Machine Shop or equivalent as follows:
  - At least 3 years in Engineering with general machine shop vocational course.
  - High School with general machine shop vocational course and 2½ years machine shop work experience.
- With minimum 1½ years machine shop experience
- Blueprint reading, use of precision gages like height masters and gages, gage blocks, air gages, etc.

Moog has a work ethic that demands a great deal from each employee's sense of responsibility, self-discipline, dedication, team work, and expertise. We also offer job security along with a competitive package and a conducive working environment.

All interested applicants will please send or email their full resumé complete with ID picture, telephone number, transcript of records, salary history, and return address (including telephone number), on Wednesday, May 18, 2005 to:

MOOG CONTROLS CORPORATION
Baguio Economic Zone
Loakan Road, Baguio City 2600
Email address: staffingservices@ph.moog.com

IT OUTSOURCE GROUP OF COMPANIES

The countrys largest award winning' medical transcription training and solutions provider is in search of results oriented individuals to be placed in any of the following companies in various locations throughout the country

MTC ACADEMY · ACCUTYPE MEDICAL SERVICES · IT Outsource · InnovaQuest

All applicants must: have excellent English written and oral communication skills, willing to work long hours, a self starter, a team player, able to work under pressure, possess strong organizational and interpersonal skills. Strong MS office and internet usage skills is a must.

MANAGEMENT DIVISION: ITO

HR Officer - Businesss, Psych. or Com. Graduate with at least 2 years non-traditional HR experience in a FAST HIRE, SKILL BASED environment. Must have proven track record in screening and hiring competent personnel.

Marketing Officers - Marketing course graduate with at least 1 year proven experience, expert English written skills, practical approach in marketing strategies.

Franchise Sales Executives - Business course graduate, excellent English verbal skills with above average comprehension of financial statements.

Franchise Operations Officers - Business course graduate with strong understanding of financial statements, proven past record in account management and project management.

Franchise Account Executives - College graduate, strong English verbal skills, highly organized and practical minded.

IT Technical Documentation Manager - Preferably a Microsoft Certified Professional, expert in Advanced Server 2003, Exchange Server, SQL Database, skilled in systems documentation, IT process standardization, personnel function management, and security management

IT/Technical Support Staff - CIS Graduate with basic to strong working knowledge of Advance Server, SQL Database, and security systems.

Software Development Officers - .NET or ASP Programmers, preferably with Microsoft Certification, minimum 1 year proven track record in clean cut source code development.

Finance Officer- preferably CPA, highly skilled in Quickbooks or Peachtree software, able to manage multiple accounts, proven track record in SME operations.

Accounting Officer - Preferably CPA with basic skills in Quickbooks or Peachtree software.

EDUCATION DIVISION: MTC

Medical Lecturers - Medical Doctors, innovative and creative in teaching style, can work on a part time or full time basis.

Medical Transcription Mentors - at least 1 year MT work experience; full time basis.

School Administrator or Faculty Coordinator - Previous experience in school administration is a plus, strong financial and management skills required.

SERVICES DIVISION: AMS/IQ

Medical Transcriptionists - Preferably allied med grad. or MT course grad, at least 6 months MT experience, min. 350 lines per day at 98% quality.

QA Officers / Team Leaders - Preferably allied med grad. or MT course grad, at least 1 year MT experience, 99% quality, strong editing and proofreading skills.

MT Operations Head - Medical Transcription or similar industry-related experience of at least 2 years. Highly proficient in written and oral English skills, excellent organizational skills, highly results oriented, with at least 2 years of proven performance in team management.

*National Consumers Excellence Awardee (Parangal ng Bayan) 2005

MTC ACADEMY BRANCHES & FRANCHISES

CAVITE CITY; EAST AVENUE, DILIMAN, BUENDIA, MAKATI; ALABANG; CALOOCAN, SUCAT, PQUE; BATANGAS CITY; DASMARIÑAS, CAVITE (soon to open) BACOLOD, TAFT & UNIVERSITY-BELT

e-mail: hrd@mtcacademy.com / www.mtcacademy.com
G/F Urban Bldg, 405 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Bel-Air., Makati City

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VSO

Voluntary Service Overseas sends professional, experienced and qualified international volunteers at the request of non-governmental (NGO), governmental and community organisations in the Philippines. 45 professionals in the fields of community-based natural resource management, gender and development, peacebuilding, participation & governance, and disabilities are currently working all over the Philippines.

Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) Philippines is recruiting a Programme Officer for National Volunteering to support the development of a local volunteering programme that supports the programme area goals of VSO Philippines in peace building, secure livelihoods, and disabilities.

VSOP's national volunteering programme is dedicated towards promoting sustainable local volunteering in the areas of peace building, secure livelihoods, and disabilities.

Muslim volunteering, deaf volunteer networking, and livelihoods extension assistance and support are just some of the areas where authentic and indigenous volunteering initiatives have emerged in recent years.

The VSOP NVPO (National Volunteering Programme Officer) shall be directly engaged in strengthening the capacity of NGOs, CBOs, and local and national government units in implementing and harnessing local volunteering initiatives in areas such as peace building, secure livelihoods, natural resource management, gender and development mainstreaming, and disabilities. The NV PO shall perform two distinct but interrelated tasks : one, take the lead in supporting sub-national volunteering initiatives, and two, help in strengthening VSO's national partner organizations.

The NV PO will be accountable to the Country Director and will help facilitate the implementation of a parallel VSO Philippines' programme exit strategy. VSOP plans to achieve its development goals in the Philippines by 2010. National volunteering is a distinct but interrelated component of the VSO strategy to sustain volunteering work in critical development areas long after VSO has left the Philippines.

Responsibilities of the NV PO post include :

1. Implementing the various capability and capacity building components of the national volunteering programme plan of VSO Philippines;
2. Helping local volunteer organizations in resource mobilization from among institutional funders and the private sector.
3. Managing the financial resources of the VSOP national volunteering programme
4. Supporting the wider VSOP programme

For a full description of the post, please see the VSO webpage: www.geocities.com/vsophilippines

CVs and resumés will not be accepted as applications to this post. Instead, applicants must answer an electronic VSOP application form available at www.geocities.com/vsophilippines. Please read the Guidance Notes on Completing the Application Form carefully before filling up the forms.

Please send your completed application form to: vsophilippines@yahoo.com

Deadline for submission : 1700 hrs, 25 May 2005
Interview Date : 31 May 2005

Successful applicant must be in post no later than July 1, 2005.

***Only shortlisted applicants will be notified.**

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	JOB CODE
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3 years experience as financial analyst/ good in forecasting ROI per project	
SALES MANAGER	SM
At least 3 years experience as marketing/product/sales manager	
Can present the plans/proposals/reports through Power Point presentation	
Advertising/IT background preferred (hardware/software/solutions)	
MARKETING/PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST (for IT products)	MBDS-IT
At least 3 years experience as marketing/product specialist/ IT systems integration	
At least with successful large scale projects on IT systems integration	
MARKETING/PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST (for China Project)	MPDS-CP
MDS focused on advertising	
3 years work experience in marketing/product development/ exposed on internal/external bill boards/banner/broad show	
TRAVEL AGENCY MANAGER	TAM
Tourism/Mass Communication graduate preferred	
At least with 2 to 3 years experience in travel agency, in a supervisory/managerial level (e.g. inbound and outbound)	
Extensive experience in the travel industry	
CREATIVE DIRECTOR *(supervisory capacity)*	CD
Minimum of 5 years work experience in creative designing/services	
Experience in an Advertising Agency	
ART DIRECTOR	AD
3 years experience in a supervisory/managerial capacity/ Graphic Arts company	
Macromedia Flash, 3D Animation, Corel Draw and Adobe Photoshop	
Skill in editing still images and video clips is an advantage	
2 SENIOR SYSTEMS ANALYST (Programmer Supervisor)	SSA
Knowledgeable in MS2000 (SQL), LINUX (MYSQL), IBM DB2, and experience in System integration	
2 WEB DESIGNERS/DEVELOPERS	WD-D
At least 2 years experience as web developer	
Knowledgeable on JavaScript, ASP, ASP.Net	
12 ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES	AE
2 years work experience in sales	
2 SALES COORDINATORS	SC
At least 1 to 2 years work experience as sales coordinator and ha an excellent skills in telemarketing	
3 SALES ASSISTANTS	SA
With at least 1 year work experience as sales assistant	
Excellent oral and written communication skills	
IT & Advertising background preferred	
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT	EA
Single, male/female	
At least 1 year work experience in Media	
Willing to travel	
IT RESEARCHER	IT-R
At least 2 years experience as IT researcher	
Able to write and presents the reports on the researched topic	
PURCHASING OFFICERS	PO
2 years experience as purchasing officer in IT industry	

- *For CD, AD, MA-D positions, applicants must be a*
- *Graduate of Fine Arts, Architecture, or equivalent*
- *Highly Creative, resourceful, and proactive*
- *Must have sufficient expertise in desktop publication*
- *Proficient with the use of Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Corel Draw and other software in designing.*
- *TAM, AE, SC, SA and EA positions must be a:*
- *Graduate of Mass Communication or any business related courses (Marketing/Management etc.).*
- *With pleasing personality*
- *Able to write business correspondence letter, proposals, and other mktg. materials*

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Punctuality, willingness to maintain satisfactory relations with employees, superiors and Clients;
Flexibility and receptivity in dealing with new situations, ideas, duties and methods
Capacity to work under pressure and meet deadlines
Masters degree is a plus for managerial position or CPA (for FM)
Able to make marketing plans/feasibility study/market research
Able to present the plans/proposals/reports through Power Point presentation

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Our client is the Business Services Group of one of the world's largest Financial Services Companies. This shared services division provides finance and accounting services to 63 countries in Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia where the company operates.

With the expansion of the Business Services Group, the company is looking for candidates to occupy the following positions for both its Finance Center and Payment Services Center:

Managers
Team Leaders
Analysts (Junior and Senior Levels)

Finance Center

Responsibilities:

- Provides financial and management reporting support to different countries
- Coordinates with the countries to ensure prompt and timely submission of reporting requirements

Requirements:

- Degree holder of Management Engineering, Business Economics, Industrial Engineering, Accounting, Business Management, Economics, Computer Science, and other related courses
- Open to fresh graduates, incumbent Finance Managers, and CFOs from various industries.
- Experienced in financial services institutions or audit firms and knowledge of budgeting, forecasting and other accounting functions are a plus.
- Able to learn new systems quickly, detail-oriented, highly-analytical, team-player, hard-working, flexible, and patient
- Must possess excellent communication skills and be able to work with people of different cultures

Payment Services Center

Responsibilities:

- Undertakes processing of accounts payable and ensures adherence to control and compliance standards
- Reviews, analyzes, and posts expenses to accounts

Requirements:

- Graduate of any Business degree, Accounting or related courses; CPA would be a plus
- Open to fresh graduates or to those with operations background gained from a financial services company, manufacturing or other industries
- Must possess excellent communication and analytical skills
- Detail-oriented, flexible, and able to work with people of different cultures

Interested candidates should immediately send their resumes to: jonice@asiapartners.net. Please indicate code: BSG in all your applications for proper processing.

ASIA *Partnership Philippines, Inc.*
Level 16, Tower One, Ayala Triangle
Ayala Avenue, Makati City 1226
Tel no. 8486595 Fax No. 8486510
http://www.asiapartners.net

Associate Computer Systems Analyst

Description of Responsibilities

The position designs, develops, implements, and maintains small to medium-scale application systems with moderate technical complexity; and participates in large-scale system development/maintenance projects, under the guidance of senior staff. Specific responsibilities include:

- Conducting user requirement analysis for small to medium-scale application systems or well-defined portions of large-scale system development/maintenance projects as assigned (referred to hereunder as assigned application systems); and preparing functional specifications to meet user requirements;
- Preparing functional specifications and/or detailed system/program specifications for assigned application systems;
- Coding programs identified for assigned application systems based on the detailed system/program specifications; and documenting program details,
- Preparing test data required for testing of assigned application systems; and conducting program/system testing, to ensure proper functioning of the systems;
- Conducting necessary data conversion; and implementing assigned application systems in coordination with users after user training,
- Ensuring that assigned application systems adhere to ADB's systems standards including requirements to maintain comprehensive system documentation;
- Undertaking regular maintenance and enhancement to assigned application systems, to ensure their operational efficiency and data integrity;
- Regularly submitting reports on the work status for assigned application systems including problems encountered and resource requirements; and
- Coordinating with the staff of outsourcing contractors who may be involved in the development/ maintenance of assigned application systems.

Reporting Arrangements

The position reports to the Principal Information Systems and Technology Specialist, Office of Information Systems and Technology.

Selection Criteria

- Suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned above at the required level;
- A bachelor degree in MIS, Computer Science, Business Administration, Accounting or related areas ;
- At least five years experience in the development of large-scale Java J2EE application systems, one year of which must have been in system design;
- Proficiency in systems analysis and design; and preparation of functional and detailed specifications design using UML under Agile development model;
- Proficiency in delivery (write or execute) of SQL and PL/SQL;
- Knowledge of Java, JavaScript, HTML, XML, J2EE(servlets, JSP, JDBC), Linux, JDeveloper, and DMBS like Oracle 10g and MySQL;
- Extensive knowledge in application development and implementation hardware/ software platforms used in a multilateral institution,
- Familiarity with system development methodologies (Object Oriented) and related productivity tools including integrated development environments; and
- Good oral and written communication skills in English.

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Apply electronically, quoting Ref. No. EXT-AS05-084(3)-OIST and job title on subject line and attaching application form available on www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp to e-mail address: CS-jobs@adb.org by 20 May 2005.

Due to the expected large number of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered.

www.adb.org

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with the following qualifications:

- Male/Female with at least 5-8 years experience in managing, controlling and developing business of a company
- technical experience on metal processing and able to read construction plans
- excellent marketing skills
- capable of calculating, selling, buying material, logistics, among others
- ability to communicate in the German language, an advantage
- computer literate

Applicants should submit their CV with photo by email to:

European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP)
19F Philippine AXA Life Centre, Sen. Gil.J Puyat. Ave. Makati City
Tel: 8451324 Fax: 8451395 E-mail: constantino@eccp.com
Attention: Gerry D. Constantino

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Qualifications

- Female, (w/ acceptable knowledge in hair cutting)
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- With pleasing personality
- Must have an interest and aptitude for this career
- Willing to be trained
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Please submit your resumé with 2x2 photo at:
Unit 1410 14/F Jollibee Plaza Condominium
Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Or you can fax it to:
633-8991

GRAPHIC ARTIST
(graveyard shift)

- Male Graduate of Fine Arts in Advertising
- Familiar with Mac OS X systems and fluent in Illustrator 10 & CS, Photoshop CS, Freehand MX and QuarkXpress.
- Knowledge in prepress, and with strong design portfolio on corporate identity, packaging and labels would be an advantage.
- New grads are welcome to apply if you have the skills mentioned.

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☐ With strong IT background
☐ Ability to develop and execute aggressive sales, marketing strategies and good communication skills

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How to Apply

Due to the urgency of this requirement, please submit your resumé with salary expectation, recent passport size picture and contact telephone number no later than ***Friday, 20 May 2005*** to:

The Human Resources Department - Application Code___
Roche (Philippines) Inc.
2252 Don Chino Roces Avenue, 1231 Makati City.

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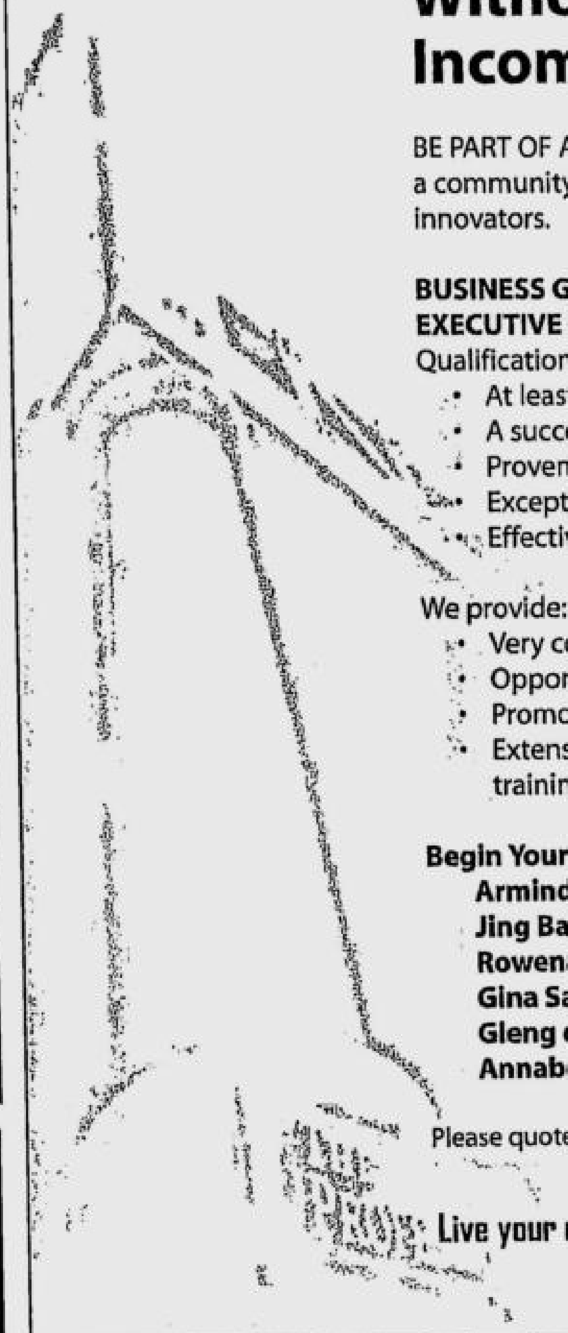

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- Between 22 to 30 years old
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Suites 601 & 602, Raffles Corporate Center
Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, 1605 Pasig City
Tel. No. 915-0372 to 74; Fax No. 915-0375

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Websites: www.bakelsph.com; ww.bakels.com

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- Single & must be an ACCOUNTING GRADUATE, preferably w/ at least 2 years working experience as Credit & Collection Supervisor
- He/She must possess SUPERVISORY skills
- Must be RESULT ORIENTED, RESPONSIBLE, and with GOOD WORKING ATTITUDE
- He/She should have the ability to create POLICIES, SYSTEM and NEW IDEAS towards improved collection
- Computer literate specially in Accounting program

CUSTOMER SERVICE SUPERVISOR

- Single, College graduate w/ a degree in Marketing or Business Administration
- With at least 2 years working experience as Customer Service Supervisor
- Between 25-30 years old w/ pleasing personality, customer oriented, excellent interpersonal skills, resourceful and a TEAM PLAYER.
- Driving skills & license is an advantage.

PRODUCT RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

- Male/Female, 28-35 yrs. old, single with pleasing personality
- Graduate of any 4 years course, preferably Advertising
- Satisfactory written & oral communication skills, well-founded interpersonal relationship
- Flexible can work under pressure, layout design skills is an advantage

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- Male/Female 25-35 yrs old, Coll. Graduate w/ pleasing personality
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For interested parties, you may apply personally at the HUMAN RESOURCE DEPARTMENT located at #001 Duhat St., Antonio Subd., Dalandanan, Valenzuela City and bring the following: RESUMÉ w/ 2x2 picture, Transcript of Records, Employment Certificate. E-mail:joespublish@pacific.net.ph

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Male or Female; 21 years above; College Graduate; Knowledgeable in Coreldraw 11 and Photoshop 7

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Please submit resume with recent picture at:

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Statistician/Research Analyst

- W/ 2 yrs experience in data mining and statistic/quantitative method in professional or academic
- W/ experience in applying these methods in a marketing/finance or general business setting

Marketing Assistant

- Good in oral and written communications
- 21-25 yrs. old
- Female, with pleasing personality

Business Development Officer

- Graduate of any 4-year course
- With experience in Marketing
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- Computer literate and results oriented

Send or bring your resumé and TOR to:

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Responsible for providing customer service, marketing and sales.

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- Willingness and drive to do fieldwork sales is required; previous experience is an advantage.
- Has at least 1 year related experience
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- Must have driver's license or willing to secure.
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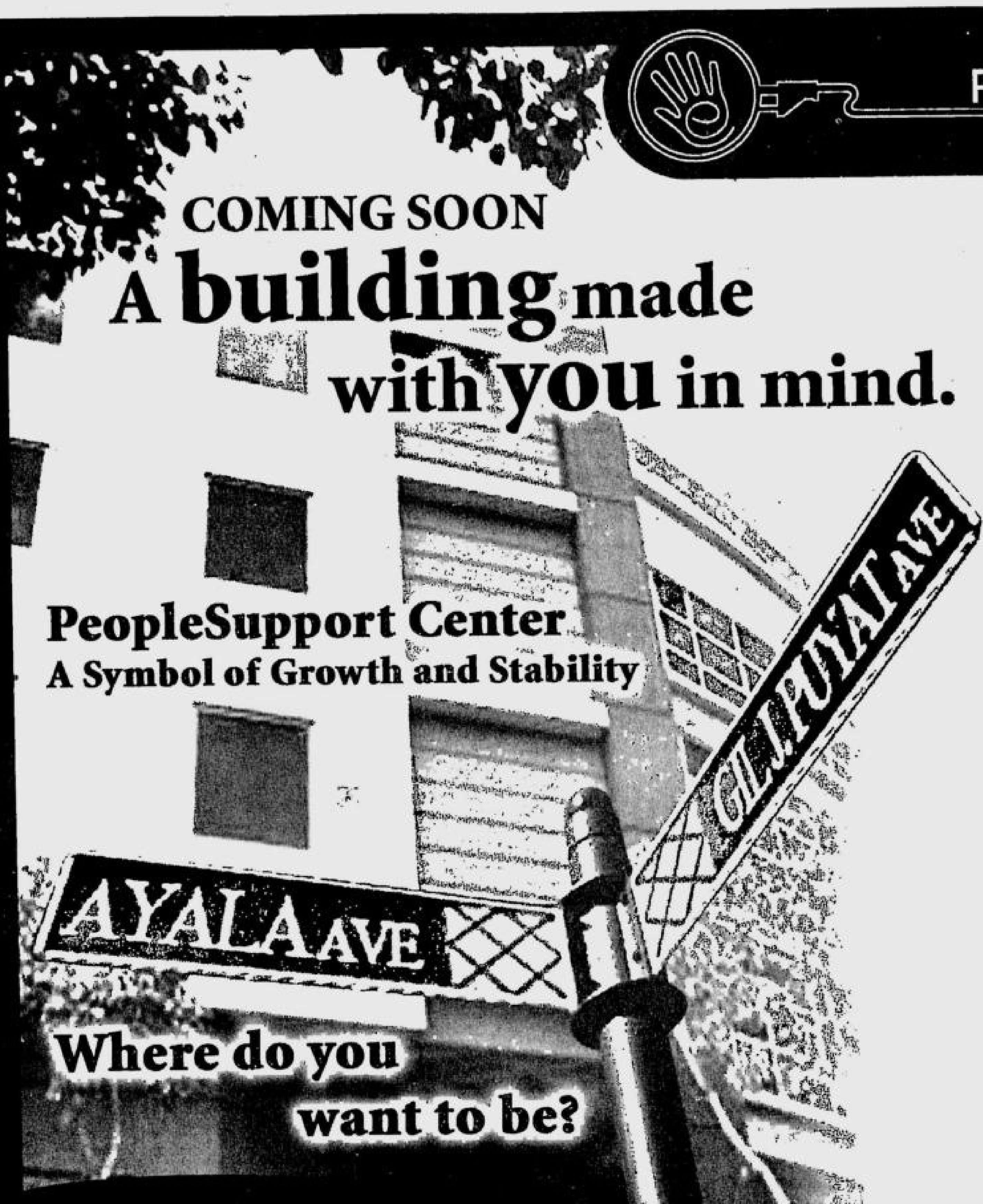

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- Travel Trainer (MPSU-TT-PDI)

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- Accounting Officer (MFI-AO-PDI)

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Monday to Friday, 9AM to 6PM
Call the Cebu HR Hotline at (032) 234-8222
E-mail your resume to cebu@peoplesupport.com
(Indicate the job code on the subject header)

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PRODUCTION COORDINATOR - Male/Female; not more than 30 years of age; preferably Industrial Engineering Graduate or at least have attained 3rd year of the said course; preferably with knowledge in scheduling; with knowledge in production reporting and documentation; aggressive, analytical and assertive, **CODE: PC**

QUALITY ASSURANCE OFFICER - Male/Female; not more than 30 years of age; fresh graduates are welcomed; have attained vocational/technical course; computer literate; preferably with experience in in-process inspection familiar with measuring and quality control equipment. **CODE: QA**

QUALITY ASSURANCE CREW - Male/female; not more than 30 years of age; undergraduates are accepted; willing to learn; able to interpret engineering drawings. **CODE: QAC**

All applicants must reside in the vicinity of Mandaluyong, San Juan, Pasig, Quezon City, Makati, Manila, Marikina.

Submit resumé with recent 2x2 photo and indicate **CODE** for the position being applied for. Send to:

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Or the Philippine Daily Inquirer
Box KA-033-05 KG
Ground Floor, Trinity Bldg,
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Or E-mail to **verre_maison101@yahoo.com**
Subject: Employment

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Text 0917-8997790 for appt.

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RECEPTIONIST/TEL. OPTR. - F, 27 yrs. old bel., grad of any 4 yrs course, w/ relevant exp., comp lit. & pleasing personality.

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- Computer literate

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A. MARKETING ASSISTANT

- Male or female, at least 25 years old
- Degree holder, preferably marketing, economics or events management graduate
- With previous experience in sales, marketing or events organizing
- Must be proficient in written and oral communications
- Is able to make sales calls/presentations
- Resourceful, self starter, fast learner
- Job may require long hours during events or out-of-town trips
- Computer literate

B. SECRETARY

- Female, at least 25 years old
- Graduate of secretarial course, or equivalent
- Computer literate, familiar with Windows, MS Word, Excel, etc.
- With pleasing personality, courteous telephone mannners and good working habits

Please send bio-data/resumé, with 1x1 picture, to:

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☐ With at least 2 years work experience overhauling diesel engines and repairing heavy equipment

HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANIC
☐ with at least 2 years work experience overhauling diesel engines and repairing heavy equipment

AUTO ELECTRICIAN
☐ with experience in repair of electronics

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BACKHOE OPERATORS
ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
☐ with experience in sales and marketing
☐ must be willing to do field work

ACCOUNTING CLERK
☐ with experience in preparation of financial statements

H.R. MANAGER
☐ with at least 5 years work experience

Apply in person or Submit your resumé at 1255 Edsa, Quezon City (between Muñoz and Cloverleaf Market)

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College grad w/ experience in professional theater productions; can work irregular schedules; responsible, orderly and systematic; can meet work deadlines; good in written & oral communication; knowledge in Photoshop, an advantage

SALES & MARKETING MANAGER
College grad w/ experience in sales & marketing; w/ extensive business contacts; result-oriented; honest; w/ good people skills; good in oral & written communication

Send/e-mail resumé to:
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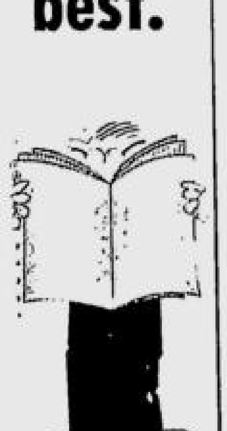

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- College Graduate
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- Can handle work pressure

Please apply in person at:

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* Computer literate, hardworking and with initiative
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Send resume with credentials or fax/e-mail to:
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- Smart and Presentable
- Analytical, Creative and Result Oriented

Business Development Officer

Responsible for acquiring new retail locations

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- Graduate of Business or Marketing Management course
- Female / 25 - 35 years old
- At least 2 years experience in related field
- Good interpersonal and analytical skills
- Excellent English communication skills both oral and written
- Self-driven and highly motivated

Applicants are requested to send their application letter, curriculum vitaé & 2x2 ID picture to:

The Human Resources Officer
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2254 KAMPRI Bldg. Don Chino Roces Ave. Makati 1231
or Email at:
BaumannHRD@Newtrends.com.ph

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- Graduate of Engineering or Business course
- Must have good scholastic record
- Must have good personality
- Must be honest, trustworthy and diligent
- Must be willing to do field work

ACCOUNTING CLERKS

- Female, single, not more than 30 years old
- Accounting graduate with good scholastic record
- Must be proficient in oral and written communication skills
- Must be computer literate

Please send resumé, transcript of records & passport size photo or apply in person at

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- **Binondo - Mondays to Saturdays -** See contact details above.
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- **May 21 TARLAC CITY @ 9AM -** La Maja Rica Hotel & Restaurant, Mc Arthur Hi-way, Ligtasan [Call Angie (045) 611-2051, 611-2053, Grace (02) 879-8396]
- **May 28 OLONGAPO CITY @ 9AM -** Zanzibar Hotel, 45 Magsaysay Drive [Call Maribeth Manzano (047) 223-3080]
- **May 28 URDANETA, PANGASINAN @ 2PM -** Mc Arthur Highway, Nancayasan Urdaneta City [Call Ms Baby (075) 568-2640/6588 | Ms Gold (02) 879-0217 / 0916.749-6320 | Sid 0918.602-8074 / 879-0301]
- **May 28 MALOLOS, BULACAN@ 9AM -** Hiyas Convention Center Capitol Compound [Call Alice or Michelle (044)-7941511 / 662-3557 | 02-879-0308 / 0919.353-0492]
- **May 29 SANTIAGO CITY @ 2PM -** King George Hotel Bonifacio Ave cr. Maharlika Highway, Victory Norte [Call FrontDesk (078) 682-8434 / Gold Vinarao 0916 749-6320]
- **May 29 CALAMBA, LAGUNA @ 2PM -** Riverview Resort & Conference Center, Parian [Call Minnie (049) 545-1856 / (049) 545-2112 | Grace (02) 879-8396

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Visualize your way to success

By Thelma Mariano

HUMAN beings are visual creatures. Our imaginations are powerful tools that can bring us to the brink of despair or create a wonderful new reality. This is because our subconscious responds to images whether they are real or imagined. We all use visualization in our daily lives.

When we read, our mind automatically translates the words into images of people and places. When we think of someone, we "see" his or her face. We also visualize every time we are afraid. We play worst case scenarios in our minds like a reel of film. The more we play the film, the larger our fear becomes.

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Creating positive images

We need to use this ability to create images of what we want in our lives. Successful athletes do this all the time. An Olympic swimmer sees herself emerging from the pool victorious. A long-distance runner sees herself crossing the finish line ahead of her competition. Want to visualize your success?

- Feel as if you have already achieved your goal. Use all your senses to impress the image more strongly upon your subconscious. If you want to attract a better job, see yourself in a congenial work environment, feeling relaxed, happy with the higher pay, satisfied with the work.

- Use visual reminders—pictures, symbols, and dates. If your goal is to work abroad in Italy, put photos of Rome or Venice at your desk. If you want to leave your job by 2006, change your voicemail or computer password to something ending with that number. When I planned to retire from the workforce, I changed my computer password to "retire2002" and smiled every time I logged on. A symbol for attracting love could be two linked hearts. If this is your goal, put the symbol where you can see it regularly. Why do visual reminders work so effectively? "Because," says comedian and actor Drew Carey, "If it's not visible and in your face all the time, it's not a goal. It's a wish."

Dream collage

- Create a "dream book." This means cutting out images from magazines that support your goal or heart's desire, and arranging them on a page. Use a glue stick to paste them in. Also make a positive statement about what you want (affirmation) in the present tense, to make this even stronger. If you have more than one dream, use a scrapbook and collage each dream on its own page. I have a scrapbook that is filled with my collaged dreams, most of which are coming true. I have since discovered that others have done the same thing, with similar results!

Here's an example of one of my "dreams come true." Two years before designing my Dream Achievers Program, I collaged a page in my scrapbook for a future motivational workshop. My affirmation read, "I share tools, techniques and insights to help others lead more fulfilling lives." Above these words went magazine pictures including the inquiring faces of women, an eagle flying and a lush garden symbolizing growth. I also included words typed on small pieces of paper and pasted onto the page such as "beliefs" "core values" "self-esteem" and "inner child"—some of the different areas I wanted to cover. I looked through my scrapbook almost every day and felt I was there long before I knew how it would come about! A number of events led to my preparing this program—but making it real to myself through visualization is what started it all.

Instead of worrying, do this. In my daily life, I also use visualization whenever I want a positive outcome. Years ago, if I were standing in a long lineup at the bank, I would get frustrated and worry about being late. Now I visualize the line moving quickly and see myself getting served. Invariably this is what happens. In any case visualizing a positive outcome immediately relaxes me and helps me stay in a good mood!

(Thelma Mariano, life coach and author, is dedicated to bringing clarity and direction to people's lives. See her online coaching programs, articles and column at www.u-unlimited.ca E-mail her at Thelma@u-unlimited.ca.)

Advice to college ...

From page 8★★

quired for a job position. Know what these terms mean and how they are shown in behavior. These will guide you in how to be a good employee and be a contributing member of a team. I believe that character and personality traits can be learned by consistent and diligent practice of behaviors that eventually become habits and become part of our "being."

Appropriate entry-level job

Fourth, look for entry-level jobs that will use your technical or functional skills. Scan the vacant positions advertised in newspapers and look for those that require the technical or functional skills that you have. Cluster them by industry and write these down. These will help you in writing your job objective and in answering the question, "What job are you applying for?" Never say that you are applying for "any job" in your field. You must be able to identify the entry-level job positions you are applying for.

Fifth, look for companies that offer these entry-level jobs. There are at least five sources: (1) your network of personal contacts, (2) advertised job vacancies in the newspaper, (3) Public Employment Service Offices (PESO) of your municipality or city, (4) job fairs sponsored by PESO and other trade organizations held in shopping malls, (5) the Internet. Some big PESOs provide free online person-job matching. In addition, call up the alumni office of your school, look at the bulletin boards in your barangay and in parish offices, and other places. Both your ears must be tuned to getting information.

Build your network of people who can give you leads on jobs in your career. Your parents and relatives, their friends, your friends' parents and relatives, your neighbors, even people you meet socially. Let people know you are looking for a job. There may be no vacancies now but there will be later, as people are moved laterally, are promoted, resign or retire. Bring with you copies of your resumé and give them to people who can help you. Write down the names and telephone numbers of those to whom you have given your resumé and do a follow through on each of them every week or two.

Winning resumé

Sixth, make sure that you have a winning resumé that will arouse the interest of the recruitment person to call you for an interview. There are resources you can use to make a good resumé, in content, style and format. You can get information on these from the Internet or books.

Seventh, prepare yourself for a successful interview. A successful interview leads to other interviews, which show that the organization is interested in you. There are articles on how to pass interviews and how to answer frequently asked questions. You can get ideas on these from the Internet and from books. Write down suggested answers. Roleplay these with another person so that you will have the self-confidence when faced with an interviewer.

Getting the right job in the right company does not depend on luck. Neither should you merely wait for God to give you the right job in the right company. Your success depends on doing the best today, and not tomorrow. Look and keep looking until you find the right job. And be prepared when you are called for the interviews that lead to the right job.

(Ms Santamaria is the president of Career Systems, Inc., a leading provider of a wide array of career development training programs and consulting services in the Philippines. Send feedback to carsys@careersystems.com.ph.)

CIC fetes visa grantees in Ambassador's Night Shindig

NINA, an accountant for 17 years didn't realize that she will soon be spending her first Christmas away from home. The visa that she is holding now is her ticket to one and thousand opportunities. She doesn't have to worry about enrolling her son this coming school year, thanks to the Canadian Immigration Consultancy's (CIC) continuous effort in helping Filipinos settle successfully in Canada.

The other visa grantees will be announced on the Ambassador's Night, which will be held on May 28, 2005 at THE VENUE, located at the exterior of Coastal Mall in Parañaque City, a one-of-a-kind soiree where successful CIC clients who have received their VISA will be recognized for making such a decision, living permanently in Canada, and availing CIC's services. This monthly event will highlight a shower of testimonies where visa grantees are expected to share how CIC helped in achieving their grand dreams.

From January to April 2005, over 100 visas were issued in CIC's Manila clients alone. The numbers of clients who are receiving notice for interview, medical examination and waiting for the release of their visas are continually increasing.

For over a decade, CIC has processed thousands of applications that are now in the Canadian Embassy's priority list, these are applications where screening has been completed and are now waiting for further notice.

CIC offers various packages of services under different schemes or programs to fit the clients' needs. The package includes 50% discount on standard consultancy fee, Apply Now Pay Later Package, and Easy Payment Plans. If availed, these schemes provide complete range of services where clients are carefully monitored and assisted from submission of application, correspondence with the Canadian Embassy, until their arrival in Canada. The service also includes enhancement of job description, document review, and proper encoding of application forms.

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CIC, with satelite offices in Toronto, Vancouver and Taiwan, is represented by an immigration lawyer and member of the Canadian Law Society. CIC has offices nationwide located at Cebu, Davao, Baguio, Laoag, Naga City, Cagayan de Oro, Iloilo City and Dumaguete city. Our main office in the greater Manila area is located in Parañaque City. For more information and free assessment, visit www.go2canada.com.

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MEAN JOKES AT WORK

It only hurts when you laugh

By Resty S. Odon

POSTCARDS *from the* CORPORATE EDGE

HUMOR in the workplace is commonplace. It perks up an otherwise tedious and bland working life. It makes things less demanding. It's a perfect comic relief. However, one type of humor—the negative kind—can damage relationships. It can be a tragic mistake to even participate in it passively—by appreciating the joke with our laughter. Sure, negative humor is fun in all caps, who wouldn't enjoy it? But is it really? Negative humor is often done at somebody's expense. "Why do you walk like a penguin?" "Look at how he speaks, he quacks like a duck." These are just soft examples but all are unwarranted personal attacks.

Power of words

Words, these are just words, we say. But words have a certain power. There are words, no matter how funny, that strike somebody's vulnerable chord, words that trigger bad memories and with them, all the attendant pain and embarrassment. We cannot be too scrupulous with words.

All of us have that vulnerable part in our psyche. That's why even when negative humor is self-deprecating, it is capable of damaging ourselves, unless we are strong enough and humble enough to take anything. Generally, though, we cannot pretend we're invincible to such putdowns. All of us, even those who assume a tough façade, have that inner onion skin waiting to be shattered.

It would be a good thing if a putdown engenders humility. That would keep our feet on the ground. That would keep us human. But isn't our mortality more than enough? And what if the bad joke triggers our innermost insecurities or any of the struggles we've been fighting inside ourselves? The consequences are disastrous.

Prudence above all

It's prudent to refrain participating in a bad joke. It's advisable for us not to be an author of such jokes. And we should equally demand not to be its subject. Everyone has the right to be encouraged, affirmed, inspired.

A Christian writer, Mark Kinzer, has written a classic, "Taming the Tongue," where he says that our tongue is like the rudder of a boat. It's just a little piece of a seemingly harmless muscle but it is capable of bringing down a personal reputation or an entire civilization. Like a rudder, the tongue can guide us to the safety of the shore or to the mouth of certain destruction.

Clean fun

Banning negative humor at work doesn't translate to a workplace that's dead serious, to the point of being lugubrious, either. It's a myth, a lie even, that in negativity lies all the fun. Dare to try harmless, nonmalicious jokes instead and see how the workplace perks up just like before—minus the guilt. Harmless jokes never capitalize on other people's weakness. Best of all, they are free from negative backlash. They never damage relationships, they only nurture.

Let's exorcise the workplace from the demon of excoriating humor. It's certainly hard to change overnight something we've been doing since birth, but it's a good thing to try some positive change. If we may paraphrase a line attributed to Goethe, "Watch your words ... they become your destiny."

(Contributions to Postcards from the Corporate Edge are welcome. E-mail peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph. *Incidentally, contributions will be paid.)*

Retreat, workshop offered on harnessing hidden intelligence

FROM May 15-17, two exciting events are taking place in Manila. Global thought leader and renowned change consultant to multinational companies, Dr. Otto Scharmer of the MIT Sloan School of Management, will be in town to conduct a leadership retreat and workshop entitled, "The Power of Presence: Harnessing the Hidden Intelligence in the Individual and Organizations."

The retreat/workshop will be based on the best selling book, "Presence: Human Purpose and the Field of the Future," which is a collaboration of Dr. Scharmer, with three of his colleagues, Peter Senge (author, "Fifth Discipline"), Joseph Jaworski (author, "Synchronicity"), and Betty Sue Flowers. The book is a synthesis of years of action research in consulting with multinational companies and global institutions that resulted in a process called "Presencing." Dr. Scharmer will personally lead participants through the process that begins with the initial skill of suspending judgment, leading to presencing, then crystallizing, prototyping, institutionalizing, that will allow the future to emerge thru us.

Nicanor Perlas, Filipino recipient of the Right Livelihood Award also known as the Alternative Nobel Prize and whose theory of Societal Three-folding has been adopted by the United Nations as one of its developmental models, will be cofacilitating with Dr. Scharmer. Both are members of the Global Leadership Initiative, a nonprofit organization of leaders of change committed to create a better future through integral sustainable growth strategies. Given the speed of technological advancement and its impact on global realities, it becomes imperative that to continue being successful, corporations and organizations must also be socially responsible. This, and the many challenges to leadership coming from the emerging future, will be some of the topics to be covered during the retreat/workshop.

Members of the Organizing Committee of Karanga lan are inviting Filipino leaders who have shown genuine concern for the future of the country and have taken on an active role in initiating peaceful societal transformation to attend. Members of companies, organizations and communities are also invited to join either the two-day retreat or one-day workshop. For more information, contact the Karangalan secretariat at (632) 687-1309, (632) 687-1312.

How to lose a job in 10 ...

From page 8★★

riving late Sunday night, you fall asleep right through the next morning. Waking up, you find it was too late to even come in late for work!

Day 7: Misplace documents. Your supervisor asks you to deliver a document to the senior vice president's office for approval and signature. You set the document aside since you are still drinking coffee. An hour later, you frantically try to locate the document, which unknown to you, has now fallen in one of your drawers.

Day 8. Answer the phone rudely. About to go out for lunch, the phone rings and you are the only one left in the department. You answer it and the voice asks for your name. Rattled, you answer back, "And who the hell are you too?" The voice identifies himself as the senior vice president and asks for your name again.

Day 9. Call your supervisor names. Your supervisor meets with you to ask you to explain why you should not be given disciplinary action for your misbehavior in the past days. Angered, you call your supervisor names.

Day 10. You get a letter citing your offenses and terminating your services for cause.

Day 11. You're back in the job market looking for the next job to lose.

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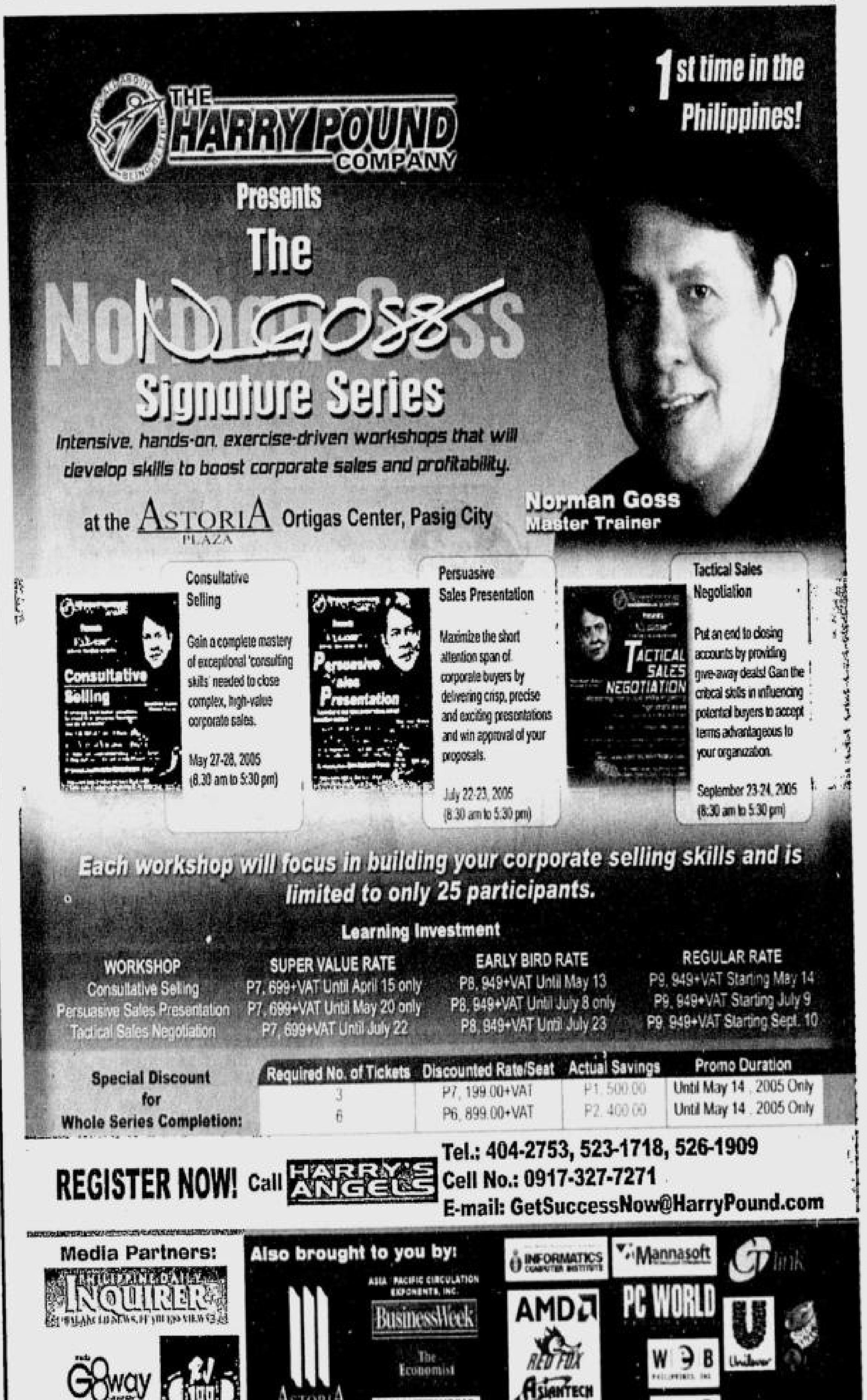
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Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Contributing Editor Regina Galang Reyes

Advice to college graduates looking for the right job

By Josie O. Santamaria

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR

BEFORE our graduation from college last month, our guidance counselor helped the graduating students prepare our respective resumés. I sent mine to about 10 companies. I received a call for interview with five of them but until now I'm still waiting for a job. What shall I do? How can I get a good job? I'm becoming nervous and anxious because about 50 percent of my batch mates are already working. Please advise me on what to do to get a good job.

Ms Anxious

(The first part of Ms Santamaria's advice appeared last May 1 in this section.)

I suggest you do the following things to maximize your chances of being hired for the right job.

First, define and write down the knowledge and skills that you, as a graduate with the degree that you now have, should possess from formal classes, laboratory subjects, on-the-job training and apprenticeship during college. These are your technical or functional skills.

Skills assessment

For example, if you have an AB Psychology degree, what entry knowledge and skills should you now have and which you will bring to an entry-level position? As a Psychology graduate, you are expected to know the various methods used to study human behavior (such as observation, interview, survey, tests and instruments, etc.) and how to conduct research using these methods to assess human behavior. You should have the facility in administration, scoring, analysis and interpretation of tests and instruments to assess personality, interests, skills, needs and motivation, and values. You should also be able to make a profile report on an individual or group, and other research reports. Knowing your skills is important in your resumé and in answering with self-confidence during job interviews the question, "What can you do?"

Polishing skills

Second, while waiting for the right job, use your time to hone and refine these knowledge and skills. As a Psychology graduate, for instance, administer and score tests and inventories to individuals and groups, analyze and interpret them, and write a profile on the person or group to whom you have given these instruments. Practicing the skills that you are supposed to have acquired from your college education will give you self-confidence which is very important when you are being interviewed. Self-confidence will maximize your chances of being hired. You will also be able to demonstrate these skills when made to do so.

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Other important skills

Don't forget at least two other important skills which companies always look for in job applicants and in the employees they hire: English communication skills and computer skills. All office and white-collar jobs require these skills. People in marketing and sales, in education and teaching, and other similar jobs are expected to have above-average proficiency, if not mastery, of these skills.

Practice and improve your communication skills in English and have high proficiency in comprehension, speaking and writing. Practice and improve your computer skills in MS Word, Excel, Powerpoint and other often used office software. Continue to hone and enhance all these skills throughout life for in the corporate world, life-long learning is espoused.

Other requirements

Third, take careful note of the other requirements for the job position. Some desired character and personality traits are punctuality, being hardworking, honesty, trustworthiness, being cooperative and a team player, working with minimum supervision, willingness to work long hours, and high energy level. These are just as important as the technical skills re-

ADVICE/P. 6★★

How to lose a job in 10 days

By Regina Galang Reyes
People at Work editor

JOBS are hard to find and easy to lose. Jobseekers know that employers are now very finicky in hiring, what with the glut in the labor market. And when one does get that job, the new hire usually will have to pass through a probationary period lasting not more than six months.

Unfortunately, some of those who are lucky enough to get a job don't pass the probationary period and lose the job, sometimes even before their six months are up. How do they do it? Here's a possible scenario of how a newly hired employee can lose a job in 10 days.

Day 1: Be late. Your work starts at 8 a.m. and you live in Manila, a good one hour and a half away from your place of work in Makati. This means you have to leave your house at 6:30 p.m. This also means waking up at 5:30 a.m. so you can have an hour's time to eat breakfast and dress up for working. However, having been without a job for so many months since graduation, you had been used to waking up at 11 a.m. So, on your first day of work, you wake up at 7 a.m. with an odd feeling that there is something amiss. With horror, you realize that there is and you are going to be late for your first day of work.

Day 2: Sleep on the job (worse, have your supervisor catch you sleeping on the job!). Your supervisor has oriented you on your job description on your first day of work. On this second day, the HR manager hands you a thick manual on the policies and procedures of the company for you to read. Midway through the 100-page manual, your supervisor catches you contentedly snoring on page 56 of the manual.

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Day 3: Insult a coworker. Your supervisor takes you around the office to introduce you to the staff of the different departments. After being introduced to a rather plump accounting staff, you remark, "People do get fat around here, huh?"

Day 4: Attempt to cover up your mistakes. Your supervisor asks you to photocopy some documents. Not having operated a copying machine before, the copying machine gets inadvertently jammed. You go back to your seat without telling anyone what happened. Your coworkers wonder whatever happened to the copying machine.

Day 5: Go on a long lunch break. This being the last day of work for the week, you go out for lunch with your best friend from school. Proud that you are at last part of the workforce, your chitchat extends way past 1 p.m. and you get back to the office at 2 p.m. Back at the office, you discover that your supervisor has been looking for you an hour before.

Day 6: Be absent. Missing your fun-filled vacation days, you and friends went out for the weekend to Boracay. Ar-

HOW/P. 7★★

Hiring of Filipino nurses in US will resume

THE RESUMPTION in hiring of Filipino nurses in the United States is now possible with the passage of a law incorporating an amendment which provides for the recall of employment immigrant visas, which were unused from 2001 to 2004, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) reported last Friday.

A report reaching Labor and Employment Secretary Patricia A. Sto. Tomas said the American Competitiveness in the Twenty-first Century Act of 2000 has been amended to provide for the recapture of 50,000 EB-3 visa numbers or employment-based immigrant visas, which were not used during the fiscal years 2001 to 2004.

Philippine labor attaché in Washington DC Arturo Sodusta apprised Sto. Tomas that the EB-3 amendment was incorporated into the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Tsunami Relief Act 2005, which was signed by President Bush last May 11.

Sodusta said the amendment providing for the recapture of 50,000 EB-3 visa numbers will be used exclusively for the "Schedule A" occupations such as registered nurses and physical therapists.

The EB-3 visa number is used mainly by US hospitals for hiring foreign-trained nurses, mostly from China, India and the Philippines. The EB-3 amendment is expected to considerably advance the cutoff priority dates for countries with pending EB-3 applications. At present, the cutoff date for China, India, and the Philippines is April 2002.

Last December, the US Citizenship and Immigration Services announced that China, India and the Philippines had already exhausted the visa numbers allocated to them. As a consequence, the processing of applications from the Philippines for nursing jobs in the US was halted.

Sto. Tomas disclosed that Sodusta intensely coordinated with other Philippine Embassy people in Washington DC in getting the concerted cooperation and support of the Philippine Nurses Association, the Filipino community, and their allies in the US for the passage of the EB-3 amendment.

Citing the Washington-based labor attaché, Sto. Tomas said the amendment is a welcome development in the efforts to find better paying jobs for the Filipino workers. She said the Filipino nurses in the US are one of the OFWs groups who enjoy high compensation abroad. With the EB-3 amendment, the hiring of Filipino nurses in US hospitals is expected to resume, Sto. Tomas said.

Source: DOLE - Information and Publication Service

Open-door workplace

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

I JOINED a group of businessmen who visited a big call center in Makati, which serves the Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) needs of several companies in the United States. The manager proudly informed us that their company is doing so great in the business, not only because of the bright prospects of this emerging industry, but also (surprisingly) because of an "open door" culture and working ambience the company has developed among everyone in the workplace.

Indeed, as the group toured two floors of a skyscraper which the company occupies, we observed that the workstations of the workers—from the lowest rank worker, the e-representative, to the company president—were open and accessible to everyone on the work floor. Each one could lock himself in his work station, which is equipped completely with high-tech gadgets for the trade so he can perform his work efficiently. However, the management saw that greater work performance could result when the workers feel interconnected with one another and know that there is someone who stands by them in even difficult or boring moments of life like that of work.

The apostles experienced peace and consequently gave their lives for their mission when they felt that Jesus "came and stood in their midst." In the same manner, every worker who experiences personal care and attention from his supportive coworkers and from Jesus Whom he believes in, will certainly experience greater job satisfaction, and consequently contribute more towards the company's growth. (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net.)

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

High-tech peace

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

TODAY'S verse focus, John 20:19, makes me think of how we are able to find peace in the workplace when Jesus can't actually and bodily be in our midst. I think of the differences in my work situation between, say, the beginning of my career (when I worked as a feature writer in the old, original Manila Times of Chino Roces' days) and now, when I manage the media office of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines.

Even without imploring divine aid, it was not that hard for me to find the needed peace then, maybe because my work concerns were fewer. When deadlines were too much, a few minutes in the library would suffice to restore my equilibrium. Now, with all the gadgets modern technology lays at our feet, peace tends to be elusive—the computer, Internet, e-mail, and cell phone do help a lot in facilitating matters, but they also serve as the main obstacles to keeping myself recollected at work. There's always the tendency to text too much, surf too long, get carried away experimenting with new software, etc.

Thanks be to God, I have kept the ability to find peace when I need it, and—what a marvel!—I found out that the very gadgets that absorb and distract me at work would also become the very same tools that would virtually bring Jesus before me despite the locked doors and the usual media room chatter here. I'm referring to the web sites that allow me to pray the rosary and the breviary online right where I sit. It's amazing how the computer that causes me so much anxiety can also bring me so much peace. Isn't God great! (*E-mail the author at* teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com.)

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Gospel: John 20:19-23

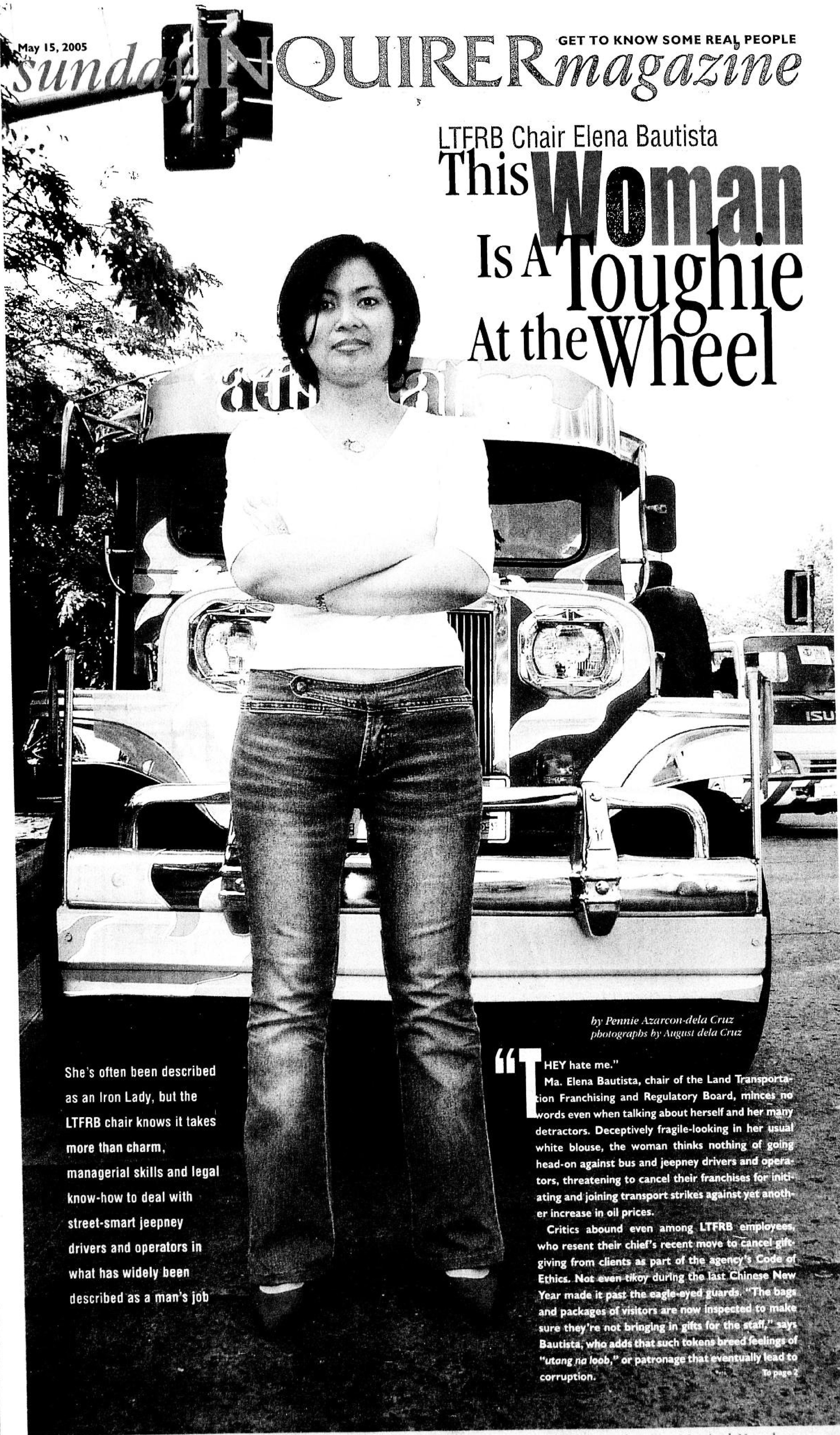
On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you."

What's inside

Visualize your way to success p. 6★★

Mean jokes at work: It only hurts when you laugh p. 7★★

May 15, 2005
sunday INQUIRER magazine
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE



LTFRB Chair Elena Bautista

This Woman Is A Toughie At the Wheel

She's often been described as an Iron Lady, but the LTFRB chair knows it takes more than charm, managerial skills and legal know-how to deal with street-smart jeepney drivers and operators in what has widely been described as a man's job

by Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz
photographs by August dela Cruz

"THEY hate me."

Ma. Elena Bautista, chair of the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board, minces no words even when talking about herself and her many detractors. Deceptively fragile-looking in her usual white blouse, the woman thinks nothing of going head-on against bus and jeepney drivers and operators, threatening to cancel their franchises for initiating and joining transport strikes against yet another increase in oil prices.

Critics abound even among LTFRB employees, who resent their chief's recent move to cancel gift-giving from clients as part of the agency's Code of Ethics. Not even *tikoy* during the last Chinese New Year made it past the eagle-eyed guards. "The bags and packages of visitors are now inspected to make sure they're not bringing in gifts for the staff," says Bautista, who adds that such tokens breed feelings of "*utang na loob,*" or patronage that eventually lead to corruption.

To page 2

Hello, Metrosexuals, This Magazine Editor Wants You, *p.4* • From Crunching Numbers to Musical Numbers, *p.5*

'Iron Lady' reminds herself of "farm girl" days with photos of some of her 500 relatives in her office

Elena
...from page 1

Going against the grain is nothing new to Bautista, whose appointment to the LTFRB surprised many, even herself. "Out of the blue, the President told me , 'O Len, *ikaw na sa* LTFRB, *ha?*' and that was that," says Bautista, whose political involvement started with Namfrel during the 1998 Estrada elections and ended with EDSA 2 in 2001. Being a "good soldier," she took over on September 2003 from Dante Lantin, who had held the post for 16 years.

Farm girl

Bautista's no-nonsense approach to business might seem unlikely, coming from a "farm girl," as the LTFRB chief describes herself. But discipline and strict adherence to rules come naturally in a big family, says this second eldest in a brood of five born to gentleman farmer Nicolas Valdes Bautista and Edna Hernandez, a barangay captain in Gadu in Solana town, Cagayan. While her family has enough sugarland to donate several hectares to the Catholic church, Bautista recalls living a regimented life. "There was no electricity and the generator was switched on only from 6 to 10 p.m., so everything had to be finished by that time." With little creature comforts, life on the farm meant "playing with the farmers' children, climbing trees and picking *aratilis*, and identifying animals by their stool," she recounts. It also meant contending with "some 500 relatives, mostly Pampango migrants now resettled in Tuguegarao," who kept a close watch on her, including an aunt who is a Good Shepherd nun and a Jesuit uncle. They occasionally drop by at the LTFRB, trundling along assorted religious icons that now grace her office, says Bautista.

"Fortunately, those 500 relatives are also praying for me," she adds with a laugh.

The prayers could certainly come in handy, given Bautista's straightforward manner in handling requests and favors. She has proudly admitted as much. "Friends and colleagues tell me to go easy, not to say 'no' outright to favor seekers but to say, I'll study the matter and get back to you," she recounts. "That's more acceptable, people say. But why should I sit through another meeting with the person when I know right from the start what my answer will be? Another meeting would just be a waste of time and a waste of government money."

So she tells them outright, "I'm sorry, *hindi ho talaga pwede* (it's really out of the question)."

The uncompromising stance might come as a surprise to people who expect Bautista, 35, to be a soft touch, being the first woman appointed to what is widely considered a man's job. Critics have been quick to pounce on her political ties to President Arroyo as a former Assistant Secretary of the Presidential Management Staff, saying that her loyalty might be to GMA rather than the riding public. "She's a technocrat who knows nothing about the public transport sector," adds George San Mateo, public information officer of the militant drivers' group PISTON (for Pagkakaisa ng mga Samahan ng Tsuper at Operators Nationwide). "I think she was put on the job mainly to raise revenues for the cash-strapped government," he adds, claiming that the fines and penalties imposed by the LTFRB have risen sharply under Bautista's watch.

Limitations

Indeed, her detractors point out, what could a former deskbound executive know about the street-smart ways of bus and jeepney drivers and operators, the mechanics of the boundary system and the wily ways of colorum vehicles? Can a Legal Management graduate of the exclusive Ateneo handle the raucous demands of the public transport sector and appease the beleaguered riding public at the same time?

Bautista herself admits her limitations. "It's true I had no background on the transport sector when I took on the job, but I'm willing to learn. I also have no personal agenda, no biases or connections to protect so I can be more objective in looking out for the public's interest," says this Cagayan native.

Rather than detract from her performance, her being a woman can be an asset on the job, she adds. Housekeeping, for one, has been a priority, a crucial step to cleaning up the agency whose biggest problem, Bautista points out, is its lack of systems.

"When I came in, old files were stacked on both sides of these stairways," she recalls. She asked for two container vans where the old files are now kept neatly, clearing away more space for everyday transactions. Moseying around her new offices, Bautista found an air-conditioning unit in a large unused kitchen. The unit has since been installed in one of the public waiting areas where papers are regularly processed. "It's part of public service to make sure that the waiting isn't aggravated by the heat so tempers don't flare."

The hausfrau frenzy extends to her own office where religious icons, family pictures, huge frames of field flowers and scented candles on the conference table have replaced the feng-shui'd dividers of the previous occupant. Fixers too found themselves being eyeballed by an ostensibly polite Bautista. "I saw these guys just hanging around by the gate and I told them, *pumasok ho kayo para matulungan kayo ng ahensya.* (Please come in so the agency can serve you). Well, they scattered away, so I guess they were really fixers."

Ordinarily, she discovered, applications for a franchise and similar transactions take two years to process, with the backlog in typing taking as long as one and a half years. Putting a typing pool in place was an easy solution; having a computerized system in place might take longer, with more funds involved. "I'd like to have a system that will enable the public to trace their papers at any given point by just referring to a tracking number," says Bautista. As it is now, she adds, when people follow up their papers, the LTFRB staff have to manually look through the files, delaying the flow of work and turning the agency into a public market with crowds milling around at all hours.

For sure, such measures have disgruntled employees at the LTFRB who think their chief is "too strict and stern," Bautista reveals. Blame the PMS for that, she adds, where everyone was "combat-ready" at any time. "If the President wanted the papers first thing in the morning, I'd work overnight if I need to, even if I get only two hours of sleep," she says. Her standards may be too high, she admits, but she's not compromising them. The LTFRB staff would just have to adjust, she adds.

Iron lady

Called "Iron Lady" behind her back, Bautista says the description barely affects her nor her efforts to reform the board. She takes time however to clarify the charges that some sectors have used to fuel ouster moves against her. The "excessive fees, fines and penalties" that the agency collects allegedly for the slightest infraction, are actually prescribed in the 1935 Public Service Act, she says. "The penalties have been there all this time but they have not been imposed," Bautista claims. There is no room for laxity under her term and she insists on meeting deadlines, she adds.

"Let's take the fare matrix, which lists down how much drivers are allowed to collect from the riding public from one point to another," Bautista cites. The drivers have complained about having to line up at the agency for two days just to get their copy instead of plying their routes and earning a living. "What they neglected to say," Bautista points out, "was that they had 15 days to secure the matrix but they waited until the last hour to get their

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PDI FILE

Fare hike frenzy: After meeting with transport groups, the LTFRB announced a P2 increase in fare during a press conference

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STAY COOL Ice-cold smoothies bursting with fresh fruit flavors like mango, pineapple, banana and watermelon are available this summer at the Pool Bar of Makati Shangri-La. Quench your thirst and savor the calming freshness of these soothing mélanges daily as you chill out by the pool, from sunrise to sunset. For inquiries, please call 813-8888 ext. 7588 or 7599. *For more of This Week, see page 7*

Dalawang Tula
ni Joi Barrios

Sorpresa

Nagmamaang-maangan ako
tuwing aking kaarawan.

Nahuhulaan ko ang birthday cake,
Putaheng masarap
At lobong lumilipad-lipad
Ngunit nagpapanggap
Na walang nalalaman.
Pagbukas ng pintuan,
Tiyak ko nang sa pagbungad
Ay may sigaw ng pagbati,
Ngunit umaakma pa ring gulat
Samantalang abot tenga ang ngiti,
At masayang nagpapasalamat.

Ganito rin ang pagsinta.
Parang sorpresa.
Kapwa kaya na naghihintay,
Nag-aabang ng pagtatapat?
Pigilan pa ang damdaming umaalpas.
Huwag tusukin agad
Ang lobo ng pangarap.

Sulyap

Ang "wika ng pamaypay at panyo" ay mula sa lektyur ng aking guro at kaibigan na si Dr. Nicanor G. Tiongson. Nagpapasalamat ako sa pagbibigay niya ng panahon na makonsulta sa araw ng Huwebes Santo para sa tulang ito.

Mapangahas na gawain
ang pagsulyap.
Akong lihim na nakatitig
ang siyang naghuhubad.

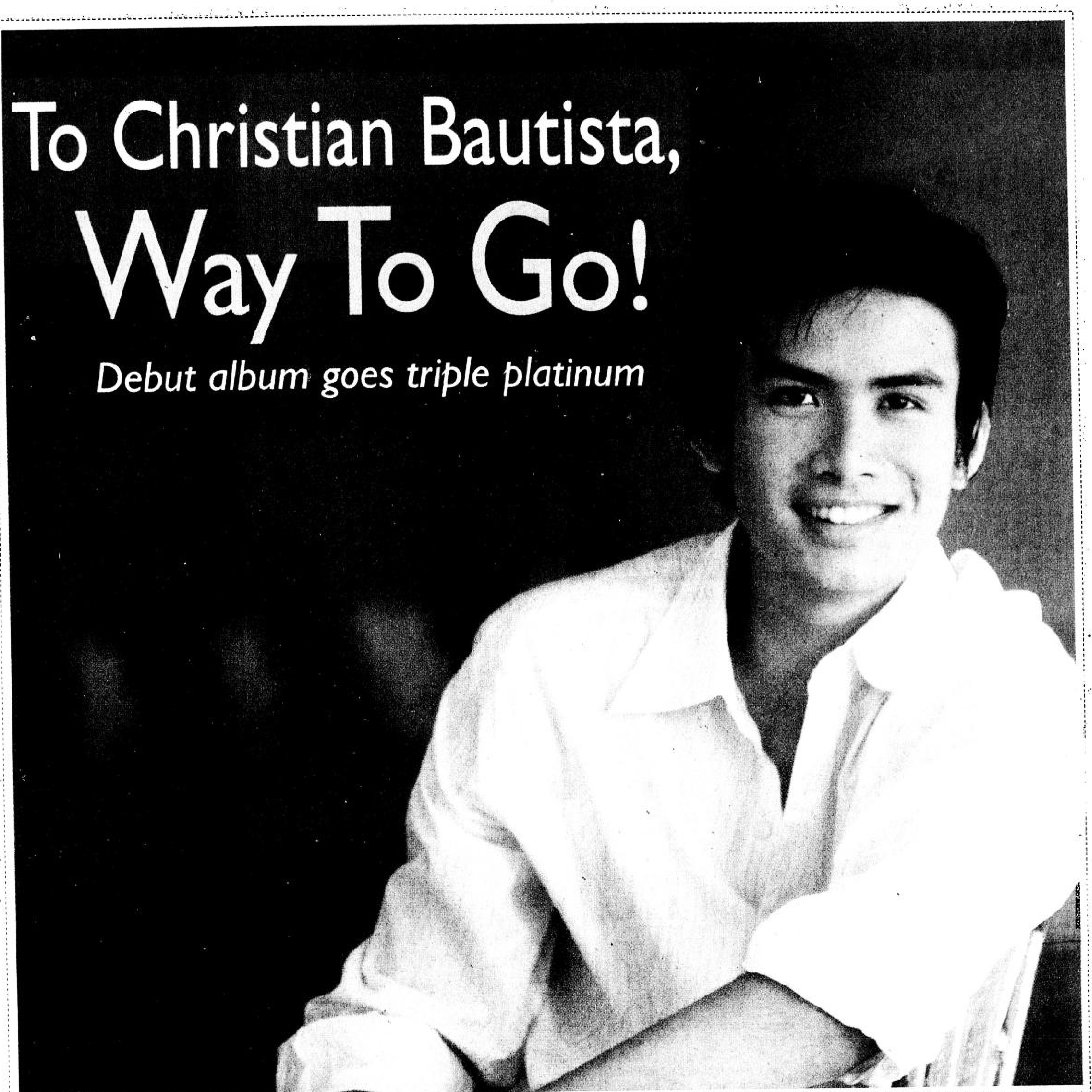
Kung may pamaypay
lang sanang hawak,
May damdamin nang nailahad
Sa mabilis na pagkumpas.
Kung may burdado akong panyo
Kulay puti at mahalimuyak,
Ihahaplos sa magkabilang pisngi
Bilang tanda ng pagtatangi.

Ngunit walang pamaypay na nangungusap
Habang nilalaro ng aking mga palad.
Walang panyo na sana'y mapupulot
Kung sa paanan ihuhulog.

Nagkakasya ako sa pagtitig, pagmalas
Hubad na hubad,
Kahit hindi tiyak,
Kung may masusulyapang paglingap.

To Christian Bautista, Way To Go!

Debut album goes triple platinum



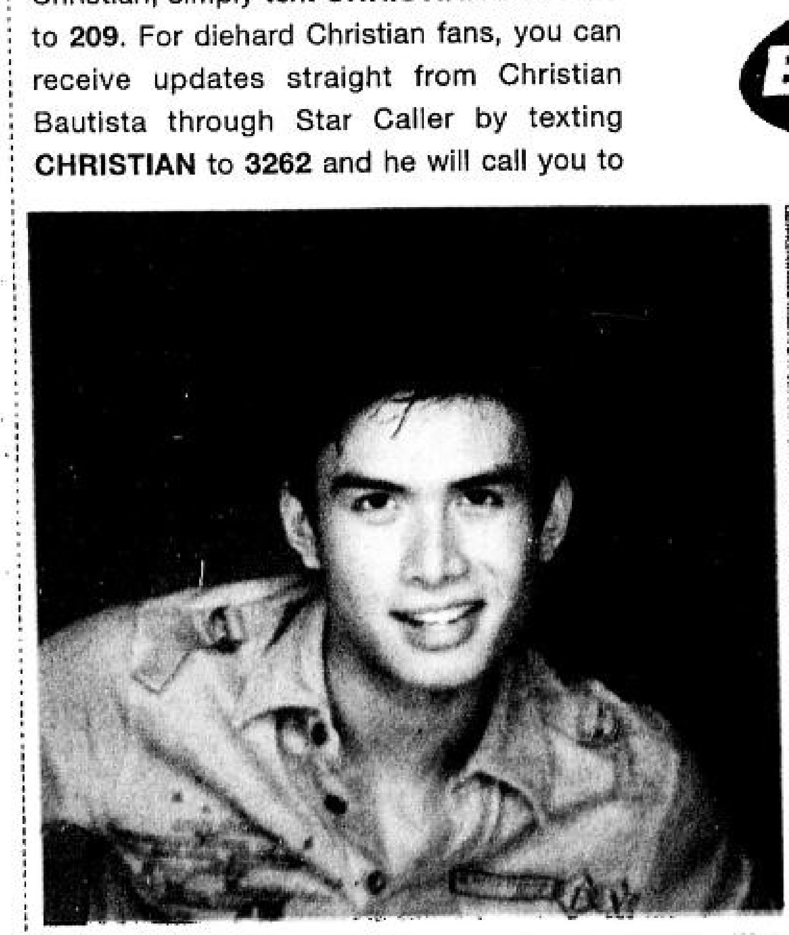
SMART Buddy salutes the multi-platinum awardee Christian Bautista!

One of the finest new talents in the music industry today, Christian's self titled debut album "Christian Bautista" has sold over 90,000 copies to date and still continues to sell like hot cakes. In fact, Christian's talent has even been recognized in Indonesia where he is also a platinum awardee. Existing SMART Buddy subscribers can now experience Christian's music through their celfones by simply downloading ringtones of his hit songs. Christian Bautista logos and picture messages are also available for download. To download ringtones and images of Christian, simply text **CHRISTIAN** and send to **209**. For diehard Christian fans, you can receive updates straight from Christian Bautista through Star Caller by texting **CHRISTIAN** to **3262** and he will call you to inform you of his latest "chika". To get updates through text straight from Christian Bautista, subscribe to Artexta by texting **CHRISTIAN** to **291**. By subscribing to these services, you will constantly be updated on Christian Bautista's latest ringtones, logos and picture messages as well.

As part of the SMART family and as a SMART Buddy endorser, we would like to acknowledge Christian's achievement and let him and everybody know that we are proud to have him in our list of celebrity endorsers.

Congratulations, Christian. Mabuhay ka!

SMART Buddy GSM Pre-paid



The Word

Fr. Ruben J. Villote

A Dream Experience

It's better to err on the side of generosity than to deliberately sin against God by being uncharitable and selfish towards the weak and the poor

WHEN Jesus on the cross forgave His tormentors because "they did not know what they were doing," (Lk. 23:34), some people through the centuries and around the world have criticized and mocked Him further for being "maudlin" and "too forgiving" to a fault.

The late Pope John Paul II was also criticized for going out of his way to visit his assassin in prison to forgive him personally.

The late Mother Teresa (now Blessed Teresa of Calcutta) in her lifetime was also chided by her critics for "spoiling" the "poor" by being "lavishly good" to them.

The Dream

One evening after listening to an over-zealous parishioner scolding me for being "too *mabait*" and "too *mapagbigay*" in my pastoral dealings, especially with street beggars, the "least of the brethren," I dreamt of writing down a rejoinder to my well-meaning parishioner and woke up repeating to myself what I wrote in my dream. It was in the vernacular:

1. *Hindi bale nang magkamali ako dahil sa sobra kong pagtitiwala kaysa magkasala ako sa Diyos dahil sa sobra kong paghuhusga at pagbibintang sa kapwa.*

(It's better to make the mistake of trusting people too much than to judge others rashly and unjustly.)

2. *Hindi bale nang magkamali ako dahil sa sobrang pagbibigay ko ng limos, panahon o pagsisilbi sa kapwa (lalo na sa mga dukha) kaysa magkasala ako sa Diyos dahil sa sobra kong pagkakait o pagmamaramot sa kanila.*

(It's better to err on the side of generosity than to deliberately sin against God by being uncharitable and selfish towards the weak and the poor.)

3. *Hindi bale nang magkamali ako dahil sa sobra kong pag-unawa at pagpapatawad sa nagkasala kaysa magkasala ako sa Diyos dahil sa pagkakait ko ng patawad sa makasalanan.*

(It matters less that I am too forgiving towards others, as long as I don't deliberately commit the sin of refusing to forgive even the repentant sinner.)

* * *

Calendar

29 May 2005

The Center for Migrant Youth Community invites you to its 5th Sunday Eucharist at the Shepherd's Place, Greenfields Subd., Dasmariñas, Cavite, on May 29 at 10 a.m., to be followed by a brunch agape. The affair also celebrates CMY's moving, gratefully and gracefully, out of its 103 Cordillera, QC address to a new venue in East Fairview Village. We intend to occupy our new home before the rains fall, but that all depends on how zealous we can be in begging for materials to repair and rehabilitate our 70-year-old house.

See you there.

Stylewatch

by Alya B. Honasan

Hello, Metrosexuals, This Magazine Editor Wants You

Metro Him editor Carlo Tadiar is zooming in on a target readership of stylish sensitive and (possibly) straight Pinoy males—and this artist, writer, stylist and armchair anthropologist is arguably the best man for the job

HE WEARS excruciatingly stylish clothes, ses skin toner at night, and goes to yoga asses. He is intelligent and well informed, and can venture a valid opinion on everything from VAT to Beethoven. He can whip up a gourmet meal in his own kitchen, and take off for a spa in the Maldives for his next vacation. He's impeccably groomed, affluent, and socially adept. Oh, and he's not gay. At least, not necessarily.

A number (certainly not all, he protests quite loudly) of those descriptions could very well apply to Carlo Tadiar, writer, editor-at-large of the glossy magazine powerhouse ABS-CBN Publishing Inc. (where he jumpstarted such publications as Metro Weddings and Metro Home), and now editor in chief of the newly launched magazine Metro Him. The same descriptions most certainly apply to Him's professed target readership, that growing social demographic known as the metrosexual. The metrosexual may have been a Western creature to start with, but with the Pinoy's penchant for following trendy leads, homegrown metrosexuals are standing up in their Gucci shoes and being counted, never mind if the vanity still renders their gender unclear.

"Well, there are straight guys out there who are very worldly, very adventurous in terms of fashion," Tadiar says. "'Metrosexual' simply refers to a certain kind of sophistication among men, for whom, I'd like to think, sexuality is secondary to a certain worldview or level of refinement. It's a realm where sexuality is not the defining factor."

Love object

The term first appeared in mainstream media in 2002, coined by English writer Mark Simpson for an article on fashion plate and soccer star David Beckham in the webzine Salon.com. "The typical metrosexual is a young man with money to spend, living in or within easy reach of a metropolis—because that's where all the best shops, clubs, gyms and hairdressers are," Simpson wrote. "He might be officially gay, straight or bisexual, but this is utterly immaterial because he has clearly taken himself as his own love object and pleasure as his sexual preference."

The signs are all there. Women's magazines are making a fortune on ads and special sections for men's grooming, and metrosexuals are the biggest consumers of luxury brands. "Now, even in the Philippines, it is suddenly alright for men to use concealer," notes ABS-CBN Publishing editorial director Thelma San Juan. "There's really room for a magazine like Him, as most glossy mags have been servicing women, or you have the more traditional men's magazines that sell sex," Tadiar says. "We push the style factor a couple of notches higher."

In a country where masculinity continues to be defined by beer-guzzling, rough-talking Cro Magnons, the success of such a focused publication seems iffy. But for Tadiar, an artist-turned-writer with a flair for styling everything else in between, it's about time men stopped being afraid of their softer side. "People's tastes have improved, since so much has become available in terms of information and goods and services." It's not snobbery, Tadiar insists, but "a certain engagement with the sensual world—a joy in life that you find important."

Although he himself is openly gay, Tadiar clarifies that Him, which had a soft launch last November, with the latest issue out this month, is not a gay magazine. Such publications, he believes, will not quite take their hold on the market. "There's still an amount of homophobia, especially among advertisers, and revenue from glossy mags is really in advertising. I like to think we're talking to sophisticated men, whether gay or straight, old or young."

Personal style

The 42-year-old Tadiar is quite qualified for the label in terms of his own exposure and personal style. Born in La Union, he comes from a close-knit family of achievers. His father, Alfredo, taught at the University of the Philippines (UP) College of Law, worked in the peace process for the government, and is now a sought-after arbitrator for disputed cases in various industries. Mother Florence is an obstetrician and gynecologist and a prominent feminist who works for women's reproductive and sexual health rights across Southeast Asia. Of his three sisters, Thea is an opera singer, Neferti is a professor at the University of California at Santa Cruz, and Aisha is an interior designer who manufactures home accessories. Two brothers, Gino and Alfredo, live in New York and work in multi-media. After studying humanities and fine arts at the UP, Tadiar became a journalist in the late '80s, starting out as a staff writer and later section editor for the acclaimed Lifestyle section of the now defunct Manila Chronicle. But he still thinks of returning to painting one day. "I didn't pursue art because at the time there was no structure to an artist's life, it was all just hanging around."

After a few years, burnt out from the work, he went for his Master's Degree in Cultural Anthropology at The New School in New York's Greenwich Village, and ended up staying for a few years until his return in 2001. "It was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life," Tadiar says. "For most writers in the Philippines or any post-colonial setting, you always deal with the subject of culture when you write, and it seemed natural to examine the notion and the frames in which we look at culture." Indeed, the analysis helped when he admittedly had to "shift personas" as unofficial midwife of such diverse publications as a wedding guide, a home magazine, a women's magazine and now, what

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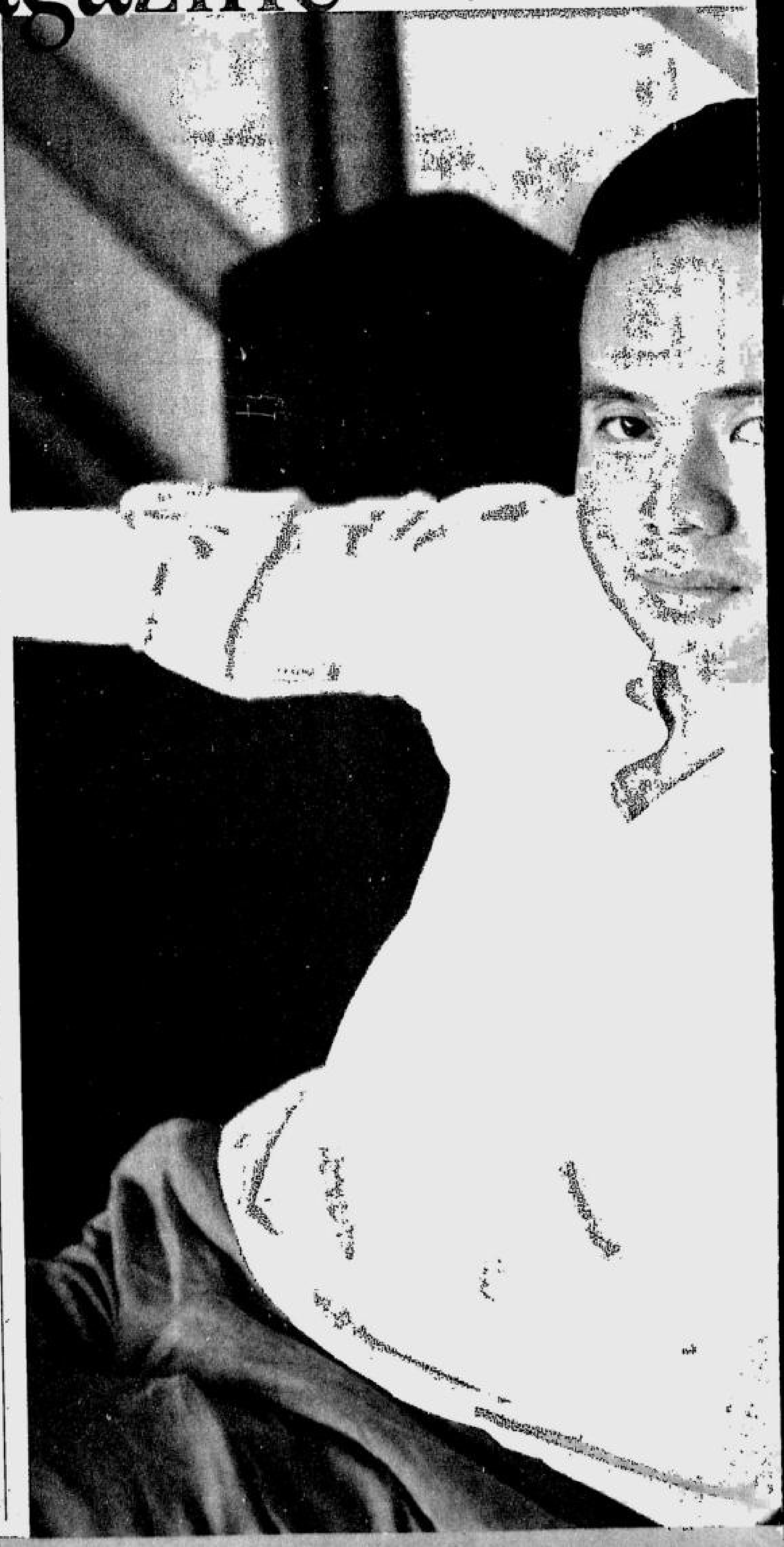

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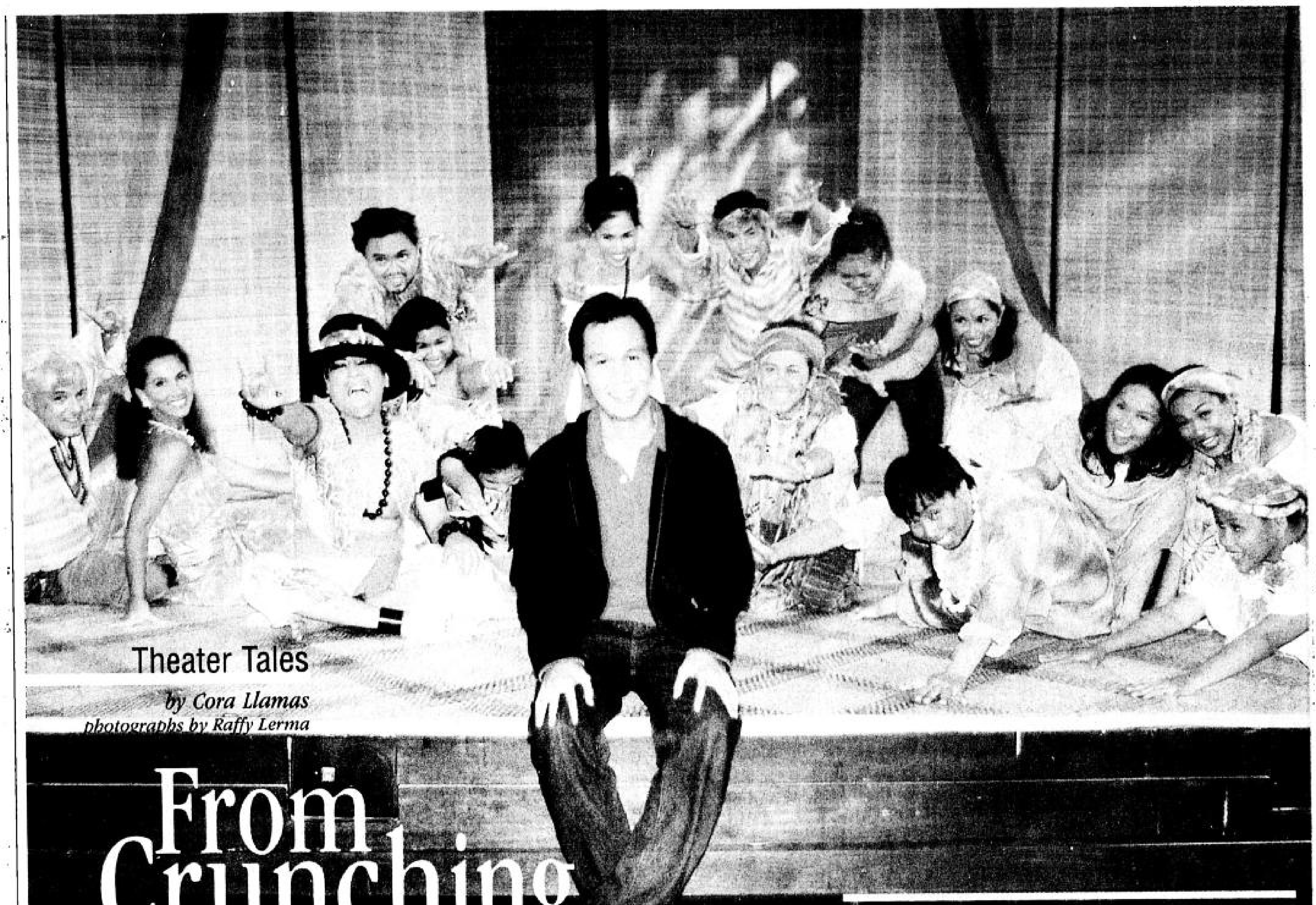
To page 7

Thanks to **Joey** and **Anthony Yupangco**
Grooming: **Claire Diokno**
Reef sofa by **Cassina** at Domani International, New World Hotel, Makati City

WILLY SAW



Theater Tales

by Cora Llamas
photographs by Raffy Lerma

From Crunching Numbers to *Musical* Numbers

Dream come true: Rony with the cast of "Once" (above) and tinkering with the keyboard

Former accountant and "Once On This Island" musical director Rony Fortich keeps his passion for musical theater burning. His secret? After working with talents like Gary V and Lea Salonga, he's still star-stuck after all these years

THE loss of the finance world is musical theater's gain.

With his impish smile, mellow voice, and winning charm, it's hard to believe that Rony Fortich, the musical director of Actor's Actor's Inc.'s "Once On This Island," was once a nerd in thick glasses who kept to himself and his accounting books.

"Ask anyone who knew me in college," Rony grins disarmingly, yet with tongue firmly in cheek. "I was like a wallflower. In accounting, you just go to your desk and do numbers. I thought my dream job then was Procter and Gamble."

The then De La Salle college kid did play piano and would compose songs occasionally, say, once a year. ("I wasn't the type of guy who takes his guitar and writes about pain when he's sad.") But under the straight and narrow façade was a lover of music who was just waiting for the right time and opportunity to break out.

Accounting had appeared as a means to make it and survive. But years before that, Broadway music had already captured Rony's heart. A high school concert that featured excerpts from "Les Miserables," "Cats," and "Phantom of the Opera" got him hooked on musical theater when he was in seventh grade. The following summer, soon after he first tinkered with the keyboard, he caught Lea Salonga and the original cast of "Miss Saigon" in London "in the middle of all that initial hype." He bought the scorebook and fell in love with the genre.

Fire for music

"The fire for music was always burning inside," Rony admits. "But you never expected it to be your guiding light."

It took a gentle but firm push from friends to open his eyes to his true calling. Rony is quick to credit theater veterans like Chari Arespacochaga and Audie Gemora for giving him a break "when there are other musical directors (MD) around." Chari, in particular, was instrumental in giving him his first MD stint in Trumpets' more sophisticated rendition of the ugly duckling story in "Honk." Years earlier, she had also asked him to be the rehearsal pianist for the Atlantis' version of "Rent" which would be staged in Singapore.

Before "Rent," and after graduation, he had kept himself busy playing as an audition pianist. It was grunt work, in a manner of speaking; actors would come in to sing their pieces to try out for a part, and he'd play the keyboard.

It proved to be the right training ground, watching and listening to the other MDs. "I wouldn't have learned everything that I know now if I didn't start off as rehearsal pianist in the 'Rocky Horror Picture Show' or 'Urinetown.' A lot of it is watching another musical director coach, just observing and taking it all in. It's like going to school and learning from these experienced guys, without paying for it."

The musical theater fan in Rony also kicked in, and he treasured every second of it. "I'm star-struck. Playing for auditions thrilled me, because I played for new names who were coming in. Whatever happens, I'd rather be behind the scenes. Nothing thrills me more than when there's a great singer, and knowing that I had a part in his or her great performance.

"I watched 'Rent' at the Music Museum in 1999 three times. After the show, I'd stay to get autographs. Then suddenly I'm in 'Rent' Singapore and it was a dream come true."

Starry-eyed

That starry-eyed tendency still crops up every now and then and has remained one of the perks and pleasures of the trade.

"There was Agot Isidro whom I worked for in 'Honk.' I got to meet Lea last year when we did 'Baby.' Of course I was speechless," says Rony.

Meeting Gary Valenciano in "Noah's Big Boat," where Rony had composed the music to Jaime del Mundo's lyrics, was another prized encounter. In what was essentially a kiddie show, Mr. Energy had provided the recorded voice to the puppet of the patriarch who escaped the global flood. "It was surreal, just being at the studio, coaching him on how to sing my songs. Not in a million years could I ever have thought that that would happen. He was really nice and taking in what I was singing."

"Rent" Singapore sealed the deal and probably helped widened the door that was beginning to open. One *raket* led to another. Accounting remained at the back of Rony's mind as a fallback in case the music gig didn't work out; but after the months following "Rent" Singapore,, "there was no way of going back."

"Rent" also made him lose the glasses and give up his stiff bookkeeper look for the more casual hang-loose style that one sees among musical theater artists. The cast and crew of "Rent," with Rony at his keyboard, were making TV appearances in shows like "Late Night with Martin Nievera." Rony's sisters were aghast to see him in the limelight with those nerdy spectacles and draped in shirts that didn't quite match.

Rony laughs at the memory. "They told me that I needed to change the way I looked if I was going to be appearing on TV. I'm still not comfortable with it, or with having my picture taken for interviews. One day I decided to lose my glasses and later, to dress a little more stylishly." He pauses, and that grin comes back. "Of course, all my clothes are bought by somebody else."

Scoring notes

"Once On This Island," like "Rent" and "Miss Saigon," is on the list of his favorite musicals. "It has a Caribbean flavor and very catchy music. I studied the Broadway CD a lot just to see their take on it. The sound in that cast is African-American, but I deal with a Filipino cast so I don't try to make them sound black. You also bring out the way the lyrics are used for the music. I push that forward and make sure all high notes soar."

The music fan in him still gets a thrill at having musical theater stars like Michael Williams and Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo "listen to what I have to say. Star-struckness keeps me smiling. I don't get tired after rehearsals."

Not surprisingly, he'd love to compose a live original musical like "Les Miserables." "I love puppets," he refers to his "Noah" experience, "but I'd like to make music in a show with real people, a show that is not just for children."

As for crunching numbers, he happily "remembers very little of it. It's for budgeting *na lang.*" Q

"Once On This Island" runs at the RCBC Plaza until May 29. Call 888-1111 loc. 218

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

All in the Game

by Ruel S. De Vera

ROGER CARPIO

A Pinoy Brand of 'Shoemanship'

In his quest for the perfect Pinoy sneaker, Accel shoemaker Philip Go continues to tread new ground. The PBA's official footwear is a shoe-in for the export market

IMAGINE the thunder of a million shoes running, soles generating energy of their own, defying the gravity of obstacle and expectation. That is the sound that roams Philip Go's dreams.

For someone who was never much of an athlete growing up, Go has running shoes, hoops high tops and sneakers in his blood, visions of stripes and laces dashing through his head constantly. That's because he believes that the Filipino foot deserves its own standard bearer, and now he's working to make that happen.

The instrument of this quest is Accel, the aggressive and thriving Filipino sporting brand. Since 2001, Go has been pushing Accel hard; now it seems his pushing is bearing fruit. "Our long term goal is to be the number one sports brand in the Philippines. Right now, we're in the top ten. I'm not talking about sales alone—we want to be top-of-mind when Filipinos think sports," he explains.

In a way, Accel is the heir apparent to venerable Filipino shoe brands such as Grosby and Kaypee, both of which had their heyday in the 1980s, when they became the official shoes of the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA). But both brands faded away. Go claims Accel is more than just their successor—the brand is a breakthrough of sorts.

The 45-year-old Go is chairman of the board at Accel's mother company, Sporteum Philippines, Inc. A Liberal Arts and Commerce graduate from the University of Santo Tomas, Philip R. Go majored in accounting. He also liked to play a little basketball. His father Rufino knew the owners of Rubberworld, and it was there where Go first worked after college as a clerk in 1980. The non-athlete found that he was comfortable among athletic shoes, and worked his way up through Rubberworld's Adidas Philippines division, rising to become Vice President and General Manager.

Dominate the market

At the time, Rubberworld had several divisions: Go's division made Adidas shoes, another division turned out Grosby and Kaypee. Along the way, Go learned the different aspects of making athletic footwear and worked briefly in Taiwan. Rubberworld eventually folded due to external financial issues. When the original German umbrella company of adidas decided to launch a Philippine subsidiary, Go became adidas Philippines, Inc.'s President and Managing Director, working there from 1994 to 2000, and helping the brand, in Go's words, "(to) dominate the market."

But Go had something else on his mind that had to do with Filipino feet. "If you look at the market, it is dominated by foreign brands. We should have a Filipino sporting brand that could offer an alternative to our consumers, something at par with international brands yet was affordable. If you look at the pricing, it would cost a leg and an arm for parents to buy a pair of shoes that their kids could use for sports. I felt that Filipinos were paying too much."

At first, there were just three of them, all Rubberworld veterans: Go, Wilfredo Ortiz (who would be named President) and technical director Louie Larosa, beginning operations in 2001. "Because of our technical background, we could build a shoe from scratch, from design to testing." They decided on the name Accel from the word "acceleration." It was certainly a Cinderella story. "We worked from my house in Libis," Go recalls with a wry smile. "We had a small room with a fax machine and the Internet."

The odds were immediately against them. "Starting out was a nightmare." Without much capital, Go had to convince factories in China to deal with them as well as try to get their shoes on the shelves. Accel rolled out initially with 10 styles, half of them basketball shoes. "We're quite thankful to our suppliers for taking a chance on us even though we were new," Go recalls. Then, there was the matter of convincing retailers to trust an unknown brand, much less a Philippine one. But somehow, the retailers agreed and Accel began to trickle into stores. In a country where the ultimate compliment paid to locally made goods was being assumed to be imported, Go says consumers initially thought that Accel shoes are imported. "But we're proud to say these are Philippine products."

Then Go got the shoes out to PBA players. "It took a lot of back and forth to convince these players to wear it, and then we constantly asked them for feedback and fixed whatever was wrong." It took a year to iron out the kinks. "After a few players started wearing our brand, the others followed."

Go eventually began outfitting PBA teams. Today, Accel is the PBA's official outfitter. Under the Accel banner, Go and company also sell the hot licensed jerseys and merchandise of the PBA teams.

Accel has gone a step further, outfitting the Philippine delegation in, among others, the 2003 Southeast Asian Games, the 2004 Summer Olympics and the current national basketball team. "We also sponsor a lot of other events and sports," Go says. Among the PBA players endorsing the brand are Mark Caguioa and Jay-Jay Helterbrand of Ginebra.

Nice guy

It couldn't have happened to a nicer guy. The soft-spoken, articulate Go is quick with a smile and yet relentless in preaching the gospel of the Filipino sneaker. He can easily unleash a layup line of industry terminology like "bursting strength" and "color fastness." But away from the shoes, Go is a thoughtful husband to Ma. Jilizabeth and father to Patricia, 17, and twins Patrick and Pauline, 15. "I enjoy a bit of golf and going to the mall with my kids," he says with a smile. "You know, market research." The methodical Go describes himself as being "goal-oriented, always looking at the end results." He reads but also follows many different teams in several sports. "I try to keep fit by going to the gym," he says.

It would not be surprising to find out that Accel is currently designing an affordable golf shoe and that one of its latest best-sellers is the Power Shot, a badminton shoe. The brand apparently follows sports trends. But if Accel sales are any indicator of Pinoy tastes, then it shouldn't be surprising that the top three sellers are all basketball shoes: the Aerial, the Firebrand and the Trinity.

Designed and marketed by Filipinos (through they're manufactured in China), Accel shoes are uniquely meant for the Filipino foot: They're designed in smaller sizes and follow Pinoy buying trends. Go notes that the smaller sizes are also meant to cover the growing market for ladies. "Filipinos buy athletic shoes while looking at three things: appeal, pricing and durability," he explains.

Today, Accel has over 30 employees and has moved out of Go's home to a compact yet still impressive office and warehouse in Pasig. Over 300 retailers now carry the brand, Go says beaming, their displays standing side by side with those of international athletic giants. "We roll out three new models a month with three colorways for each shoe, and probably around 120 to 150 styles every year," he says, adding that they make some 250,000 pairs a year. In any country, that's a lot of sneakers.

The brand is into sports accessories as well, such as basketballs, volleyballs and soccer balls and possibly swimwear, since the Accel women's line is doing well. To avoid the fate that befell the Grosby and Kaypee brands, Go says they will look beyond market trends and concentrate instead on sports footwear and sports apparel.

Accel's business is the majority of Sporteum's trade: The company is also the local distributor of international brands Nike and Brooks. Go says there's no business conflict at all. "Brooks and Nike are high-end brands. Accel is mostly at the mid-price level," he says. Accel is his baby, says Go. It bears reminding that iconic footwear brands are often linked to a nation's identity, such as Japan's Mizuno.

"We're happy to say that we are gaining market share the last four years," says Go. "We are moving Accel to the next level." And that's the export market, with feelers coming from the Middle East, India and Taiwan.

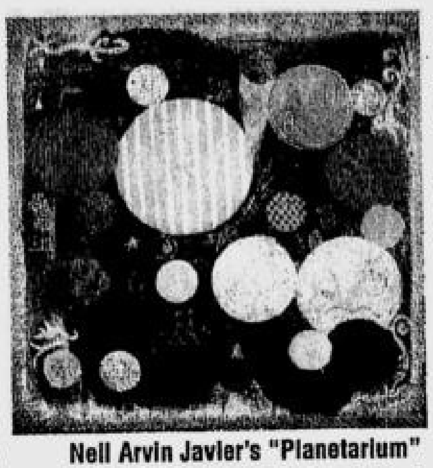
Accel is going places, literally. "That's next for us," says Go whose career seems inextricably linked to this shoe brand and the Filipino footwear dream. Now more than ever, he hears the boom of thunder again. Q

For more information, log on to http://www.accelsports.com

This Week

Art

Five fine arts graduates of the Technological University of the Philippines have banded together to mount a group show, **REISSUE**, to take up the daunting challenge of reinterpreting and reinventing well-worn images into which the artists have infused new meanings. REISSUE can be viewed until May 19 at the Big & Small Art Art Co., 3/F Mandara Promenade Bldg., 198 Wilson St., Greenhills, San Juan. Call 726-4277.



Neil Arvin Javier's "Planetarium" part of the "REISSUE" exhibit at The Big & Small Art Co.

Surface Tensions, Trek Valdizno's 7th one-man exhibit, will run until May 24 at the Finale Art Gallery.

Positivism Art Gallery will hold a **group exhibit-sale** on May 17-30 featuring "flowers" and "mother and child" paintings by both professional and young, talented upcoming artists for the benefit of the street children who have been attending free art lessons conducted by positivism exponent and painter E.R. Tagle. Positivism Art Gallery is located at Enterprise Plaza, located at 1429 Pablo Ocampo St. (Vito Cruz Ext.), Brgy. San Antonio, Makati City, tel. 811-2432 or 0927-5522288.

Ten recent artworks by Abstract Expressionist artist Frederick Epistola, entitled **Coffee Cuts**, will be on view at Starbucks 6750, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, on May 16-26. Proceeds from the sale of the artworks will benefit the SparkHope project of UNICEF and Starbucks. For inquiries, call 0917-9319943 or e-mail frederickepistola@yahoo.com.

In his latest solo exhibit, **New General Catalog**, Alvin Villaroel turns to astronomy books as sources for his new set of paintings depicting galaxy clusters, stars, planetary terrain, comets–all products of space exploration. Opening cocktails are on May 17, 6:30 p.m., at the Mag:net Gallery Center ABS at The Loop, ELJ Center, ABS-CBN Compound, Eugenio Lopez Jr. St., Quezon City. The exhibit will run until June 1. Call 410-0995 or e-mail magnet@pldtdls.net.

Trek Valdizno's one-man show runs until May 24 at the Finale Art Gallery

Music

Monster Radio RX 93.1 presents **Hiphop in Heat**, a summer party featuring the beats, grooves and verses of today's hottest music genre, on May 20, Friday, at Prince of Jaipur at The Fort. The RX Summer Stick-On conquers Eastwood City, Libis, on May 21, beginning at 5 p.m. The Monster Movie Premier of the latest computer-animated spectacle, "Madagascar," unfolds for family audiences at the Robinson's Galleria Cinema 6 on May 21 at 3 p.m. And on May 29, 4 p.m., one of today's best-loved bands, Sugarfree, takes centerstage at SM North Edsa's The Garden for The RX Concert Series at the Mall.

Food

Beat the heat of this sizzling season. Avail yourself of the **Summer Fiesta Room Package** at the New World Renaissance Hotel from April 15 to June 4 and stay in a deluxe room during Fridays and Saturdays for P3,600+ (room only) or P4,300+ (with buffet breakfast for two adults). Each room is for a maximum of two adults and two children below 12 years old. The Summer Fiesta room package is available to local residents and foreign guests with valid Alien Certificate of Registration. Rates are subject to 10 percent service charge and 10.5 percent government tax. Rooms are subject to availability. For information and reservations, call 811-6888.

On May 18 and 19, Asia Society Philippines, a non-profit, non-government organization dedicated to fostering understanding about the countries and cultures of the Asia Pacific Region, together with the Australian Embassy, will feature renowned Vietnamese/Australian chef, Luke Nguyen, in a **special fundraising dinner** at the Top of the Citi, Citibank Tower Paseo de Roxas Avenue, Makati City. Chef Luke owns of the Red Lantern, the best Vietnamese restaurant in Sydney, Australia, which serves authentic Vietnamese food, recipes handed down by Luke's mother. Tickets are P5,000 per person. The funds raised from the ticket sales will support Asia Society's upcoming Arts and Culture programs. Registration will begin at 7 p.m. For more information, please call the Asia Society office at 752-4374 or 810-8983, or you may send an e-mail to myleneg@asiasoc.org.ph.

Atbp

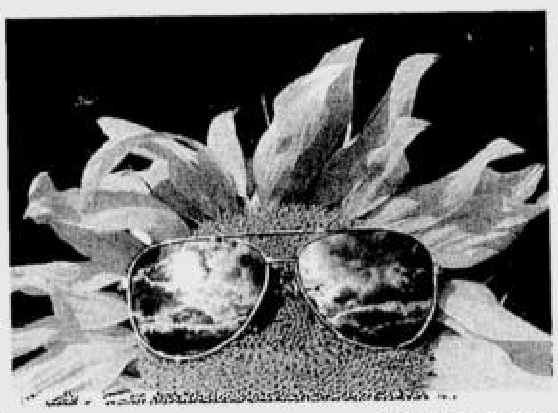
The Corporate Mind presents twin-bill seminars, **Etiquette for All Occasions**, 9-11:30 a.m., and **Personality Packaging for Success**, 1-6 p.m., on May 15 at the Holiday Inn Galleria Manila (formerly Manila Galleria Suites) on ADB Ave., Pasig City. Speaker is management training consultant and personal development coach Joscephine Gomez, president of The Corporate Mind and classical singer. The seminars are open to professionals of all ages and backgrounds. Call The Corporate Mind at 687-7898 or 0919-8763770.

The UP Film Institute (UPFI) is pleased to announce its **35mm Cinematography Workshop** scheduled for May 16-21 with noted German cinematographer Jorg Schifferer as resource speaker. The six-day cinematography workshop, to be held at the Unitel Production studios in Makati City, is open for only 20 participants and will use film stock donated by Kodak. Designed as an advanced hands-on filmmaking course, the workshop focuses on the use of a 35mm Arriflex camera and various camera lenses and accessories, familiarization with film material, understanding light meter reading and controlled lighting principles. The latter part of the workshop will involve actual shooting and processing of 35mm footage. For more details, call Laisa/UPFI Extension at 925-0286 or 926-3640, or email bjorki71@yahoo.com.

The Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation will hold a **basic painting seminar for children** on May 17-20, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Fort Santiago, Intramuros, Manila, with Prof. Cecilia Angeles, a faculty member of the Fine Arts and English Departments of the Feati University and Philippine Women's University, sharing her knowledge and expertise with the participants. Day 1 will cover basic drawing, material and techniques; Day 2 will have the kids familiarizing with medium pastel, watercolor and oil; Day 3 will discuss composition; and Day 4 comes the presentation and evaluation of their works. Contact FPPF at 7/F Comfoods Bldg., Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City, tel. no. 843-5341 or 813-7320.

The Lopez Memorial Museum will hold a **Painting Workshop** on May 18-20,10 a.m.-12 noon, at G/F Benpres Building, Exchange Road corner Meralco Avenue, Pasig City. Facilitator Wayie Canoy will explore the relation of painting and music, particularly in terms of color, texture and movement. Fee is P3,000 (inclusive of materials). Call 631-2417, or e-mail pezseum@skyinet.net. The museum is open Mondays to Saturdays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., except holidays.

The Alcove Photo Gallery opens its series of advanced lighting workshops with **Lighting for Portraiture** by Jay Alonzo on May 21 and 28 (9 a.m.-5 p.m.), and June 1 (critiquing session, 6-9 p.m.) at the Filipinas Heritage Library, Makati Avenue, Ayala Triangle, Makati City (across The Peninsula Manila). This two-day seminar will cover the basics of lighting for portrait shots, a popular application in photography. The course aims to reduce th complexity of light and illumination to a learnable level and show its application in photographing people as subject. Participants are required to have basic working knowledge on photography, particularly on exposure setting and composition, or have at least taken Photo 101 or Digital Photography 101; camera with manual exposure control, with 100mm lens or longer (135 format, or equivalent in digital format); and a flash-exposure meter (optional). Workshop fee is P3,000. Slots are limited. For more details, please call 892-1802, email events@fillib.org.ph, or visit www.filipinaslibrary.prg.ph.



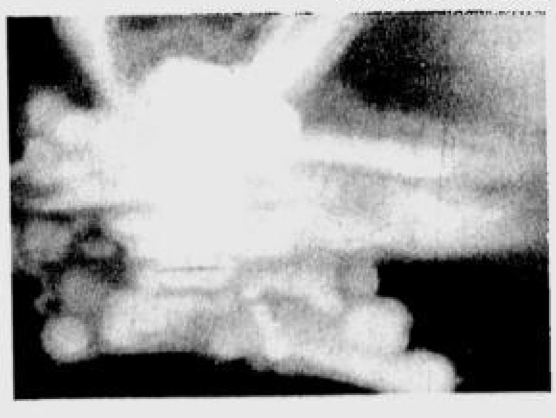
Avail yourself of the Summer Fiesta Room Package at the New World Renaissance Hotel from April 15 to June 4

Re-learn correct vision habits to see easily and clearly at the **Natural Eyesight workshop** using the Bates method of natural vision improvement and other self-healing and relaxation techniques. There will be a free introductory lecture on May 21, Saturday, 10 a.m. Workshop classes start on May 28, with meetings once a week for seven weeks. Classes will be held at the InTouch Community Services, 48 McKinley Rd., Makati. Call 810-6233 or 893-1893, or text 0917-4810961.

X-manila

Life-Study is a two-day intensive journal workshop, to be held at Maryknoll Ecological Sanctuary, Campo Sioco, Baguio City, on May 21-22, wherein one applies the journal method to the life of another person: someone you wish to know more about and whose life is already complete. For details, Call (074) 442-4602 during office hours, or Sr. Dolores Mitch at (074) 442-4926.

Alvin Villaroel's "Untitled," on view at the Mag:net Gallery Center ABS



Camarines Sur is staging the hottest festival this summer, **Kaogma 2005 Festival**, from May 21 to 27. Kaogma, which literally means "happiness," aims to celebrate happiness in a hot and fiery way. On May 21, the festival begins with a fantastic motorcade of 150-200 vehicle floats adorned with festive colors marching to the rhythm of an original composition by Juan Miguel Lerma of Radioactive Sago Project created just for the occasion. There will be trade fair booths trhoughout the festivity, as well as fireworks, fire eaters, fire walker's, fire throwers, dancers, hot bands, entertainment packages, beauty pageant, intense boxing match, motocross, and a cookfest. The Kaogma Festival ends on May 27 with a huge bonfire and street dancing.

Qingdao City in the Province of Shangdong, China, will play host to the **China International Violin Competition** on September 17-19.The competition is open to violinists of all nationalities, approximately 16-20 years old and born before September 17, 1989, and after September 17, 1975. The competition is divided into three separate rounds: two eliminatory rounds, after which only six competitors will enter the final round. The printed application form with the necessary enclosure, mailed or directly sent to the Competition Organizing Committee should be postmarked not later than May 20. Prizes include $20,000, medal and diploma for the first prize winner; $15,000, medal and diploma for the send prize winner; and $12,000, medal and diploma for the third prize winner. For more details, e-mail the Organizing Committee at gdviolin@gdwhw.com or call the CCP Music Division at 832-1125 loc. 1604.

For this week's bands and schedules call:

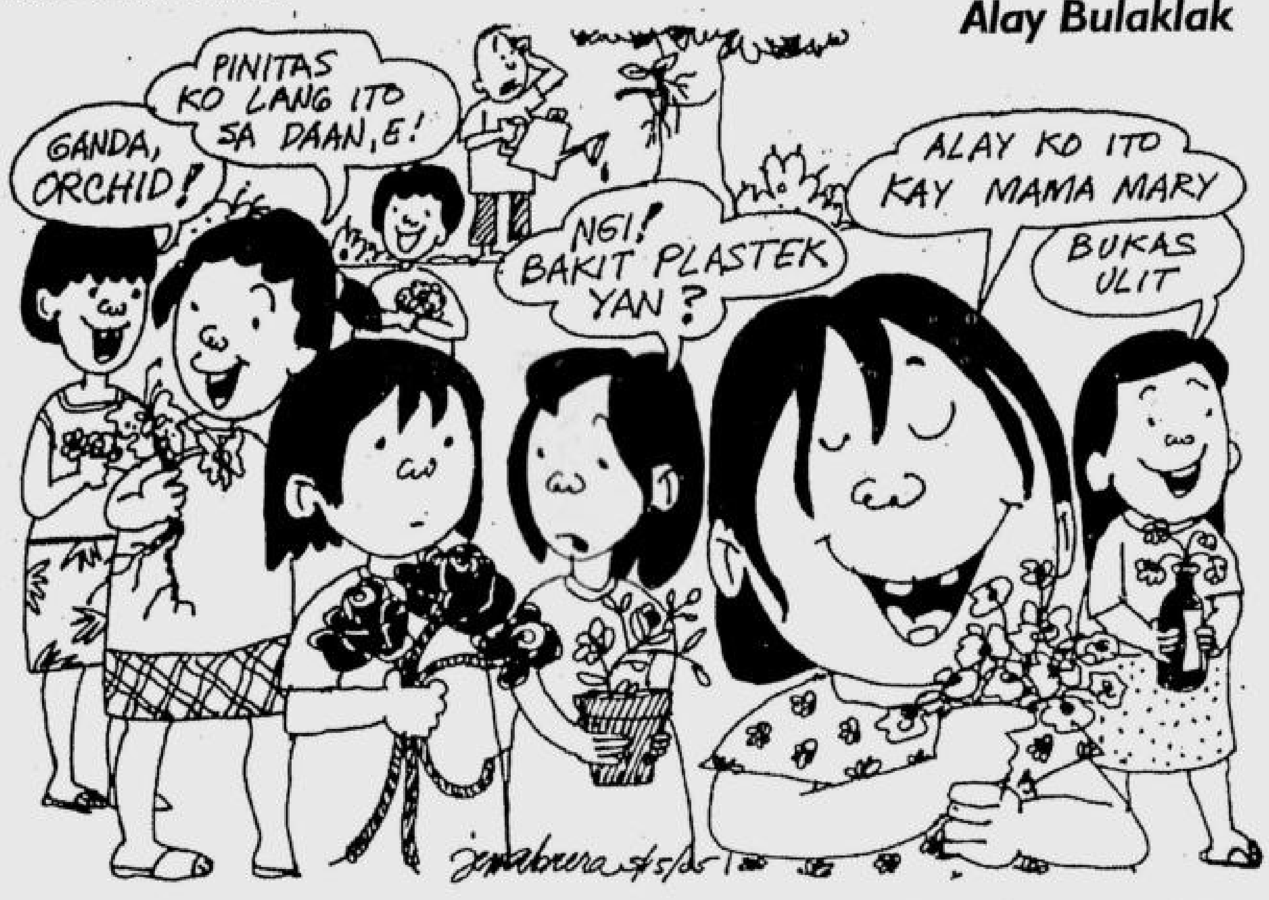
- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

Pinoy Nga!

Jess Abrera

Alay Bulaklak


GANDA, ORCHID!
PINITAS KO LANG ITO SA DAAN, E!
NGI! BAKIT PLASTEK YAN?
ALAY KO ITO KAY MAMA MARY
BUKAS ULIT

Elena...from page 2

copy, hence the last-minute crowd."

The fare matrix itself has been roundly criticized for being overpriced: How could a piece of paper, admittedly produced at less than P50, be palmed off to drivers and operators for P550? Explains Bautista: "The fare matrix costs about P50. The P510 is the filing fee for the fare increase." It is true, though, that each vehicle has to have an original of the matrix , in contrast to the old practice of posting a photocopy. Again, explains Bautista, what drivers don't understand is that the original copy, with the individual vehicle's plate number, is meant to protect them from colorum vehicles. "Since only legally registered and franchised vehicles can apply for a fare increase, only they can get an original fare matrix. And that's how we can tell the legit vehicles from the colorum ones."

Her job, says Bautista is to "uphold the law." The rules, she adds, have to be "very clear and defined" and should leave little room for discretion, as this may lead to influence peddling. In balancing the interest of the transport sector with the riding public, the LTFRB chief often finds herself caught between belligerent bus and jeepney drivers and harassed commuters especially during transport strikes. Already, she says, the Board has started to cancel the franchise of vehicles that have joined previous strikes, "in accordance with condition no. 3 on their franchise application."

No conflict

It's a move that does not sit well with the jeepney group PISTON. Asks San Mateo: "How can Bautista condemn drivers and operators so quickly when they go on a one-day strike to protest rising fuel costs, when she does nothing against oil companies that, week after week, have been punishing the riding public by increasing their prices?"

As for balancing the interest of transport groups and the riding public, San Mateo insists there is no inherent conflict between the two. "When we go on strike, it's not meant to punish commuters, but to pressure the government into solving the oil price crisis that affects not just transport groups but the public as well."

In fact, the PISTON spokesman adds, his group is not batting for a fare increase, "because the move only makes us drivers collectors for the oil companies and the government." With no wage hike, he adds, a fare increase punishes ordinary folk like them.

With the recent P2 fare increase granted to transport groups, Bautista and the LTFRB are bound to be on the receiving end of complaints from consumer groups. Such pressures do not faze her, shrugs Bautista who says she has received bullets and black ribbons in the mail. "I'm not afraid to die," she says of the death threats. "I'm at peace with my God. But I guess it's a blessing that I'm still single. With no children to worry about, I can be really tough and be more effective on the job."

The job is as dispensable to her, she adds. "I'm ready to go anytime the President asks me to. This job pays P25,000 so only those with another agenda will cling to it. I won't."

What fazes her at this time, says the still single Bautista with a dimpled smile, are the relentless efforts of well-meaning friends, relatives, bosses and colleagues to find her a match. "I'm a fatalist," she says. "I'd like to have a family someday, but only if and when I meet the right guy." But until she finds him, Bautista says she'd rather spend her free time watching "The Amazing Race," "C.S.I.," "24" and "Alias" on television. Q

Hello...from page 4

mits he's *"oido,"* and learns from going to nice restaurants, reading cookbooks or watching good cooking shows. Once he was asked to bring some chicken for an officemate's birthday, and in lieu of the expected *lechon manok*, Tadiar arrived with an earthen pot of divine *coq au vin*, a French dish of chicken in a wine-based sauce, consumed only with strict instructions to wipe the accompanying French bread meticulously on the plates.

Although he leans towards English designers like Paul Smith—"There's something whimsical, dapper and gentlemanly about it, in contrast with the other super stylish brands"—Tadiar is quick to point out that he's no slave to labels. "I grew up barefoot on the beaches of San Fernando, and studied in public schools until I was in high school, so I'm really, really a *probinsyano*. I can be blown away by something a tricycle driver is wearing just as much as by a designer's work," says the Ilocano who is as likely to show up at work in jeans and ratty T-shirts as he is in a Costume National jacket.

Tadiar is banking on the fact that the Filipino man is getting more sophisticated by the day. In the end, however, the metrosexual is simply at the forefront of that universal search for something better, more beautiful, and more fulfilling than what we have now. "People are very complex. Our desires and tastes and disappointments and solaces are strange and complex. But somehow, they're still all one." Q

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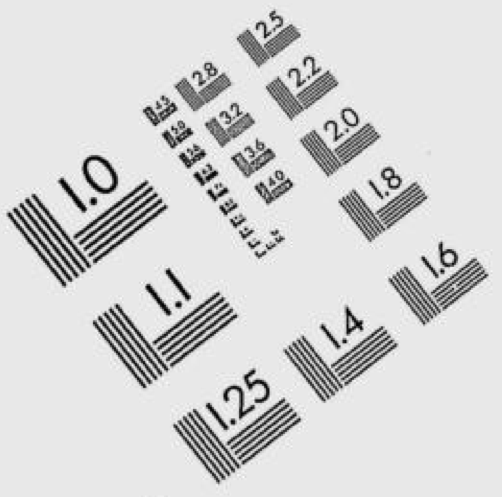
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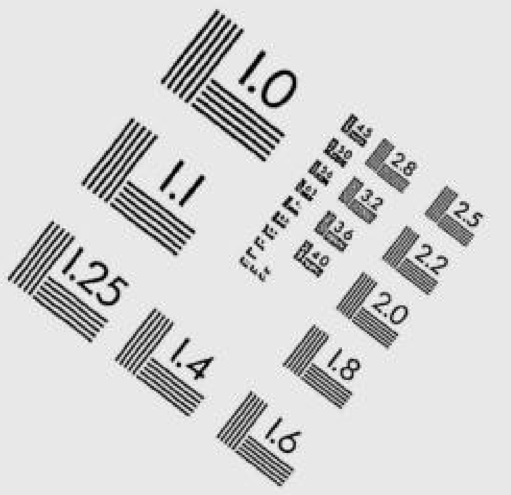
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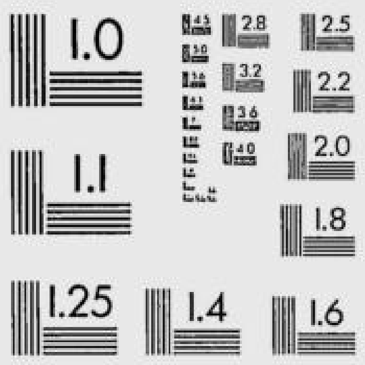
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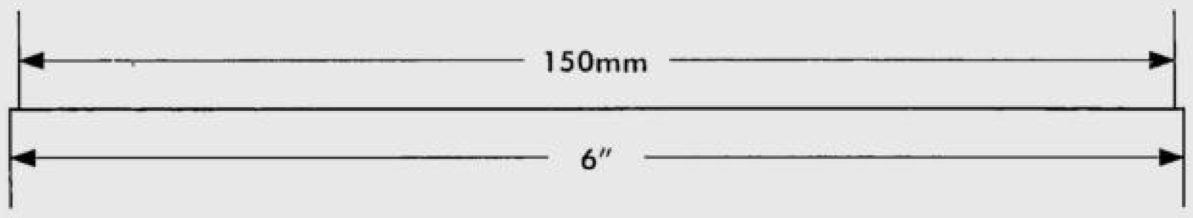

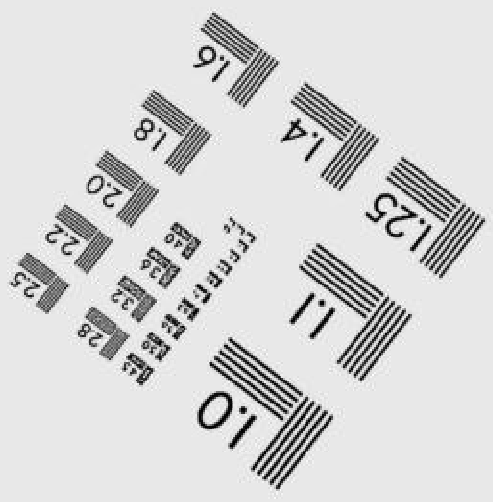
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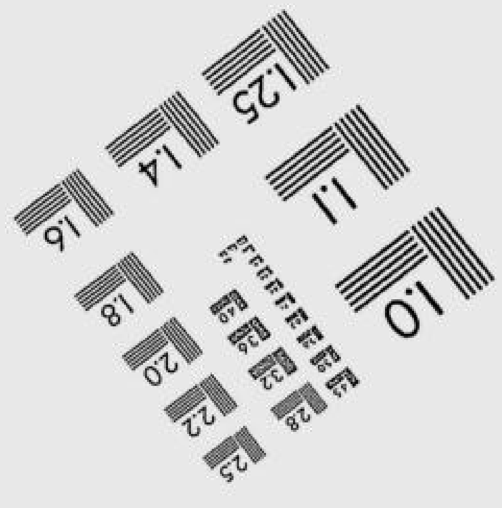
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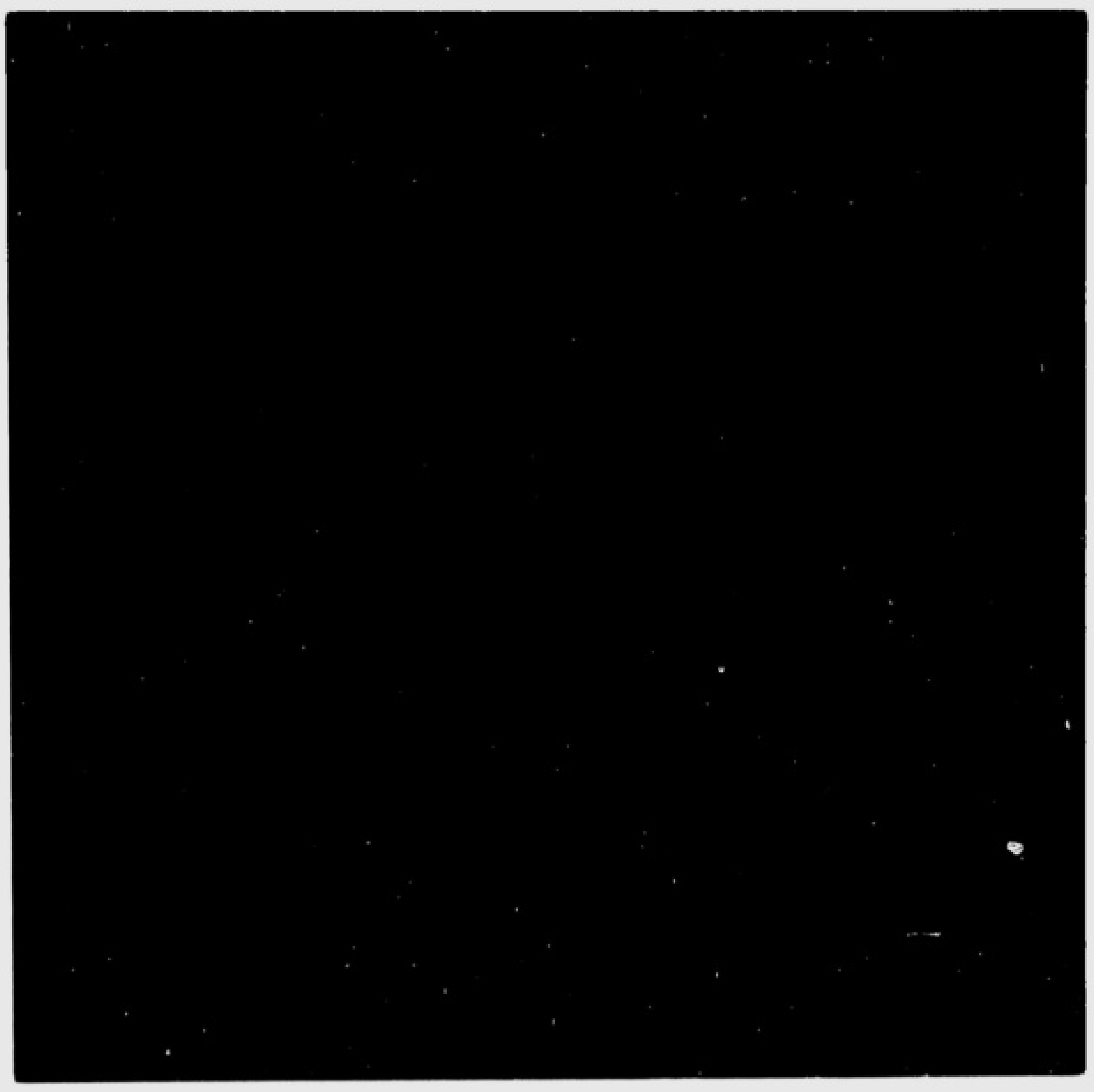

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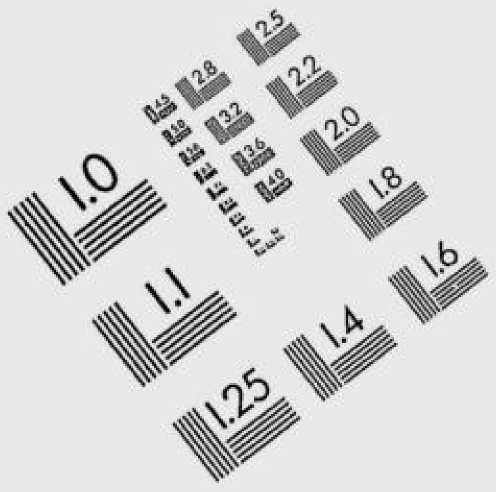
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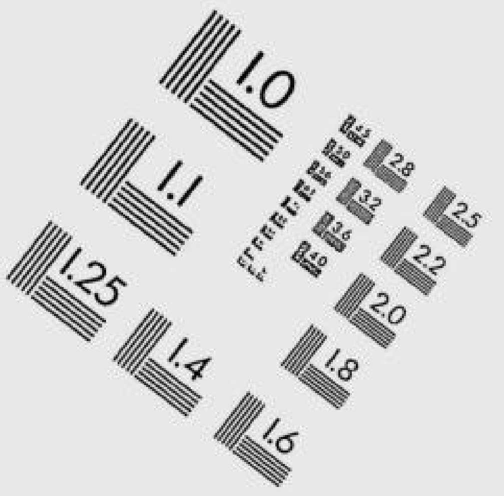
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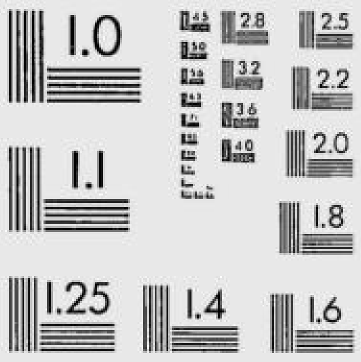
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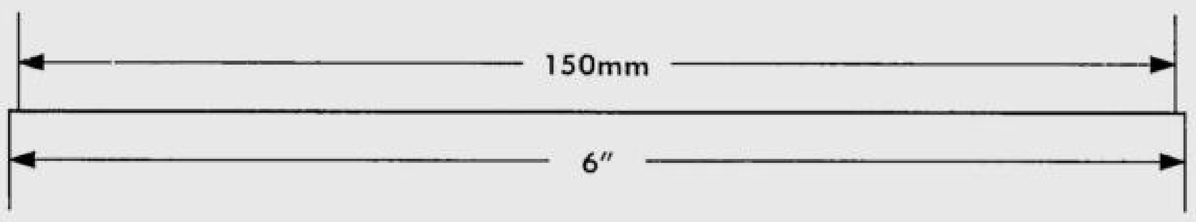

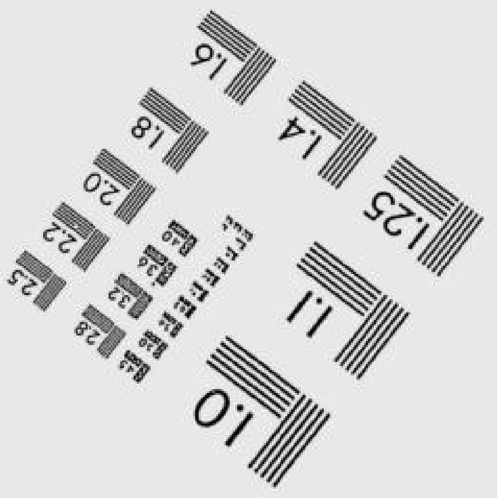
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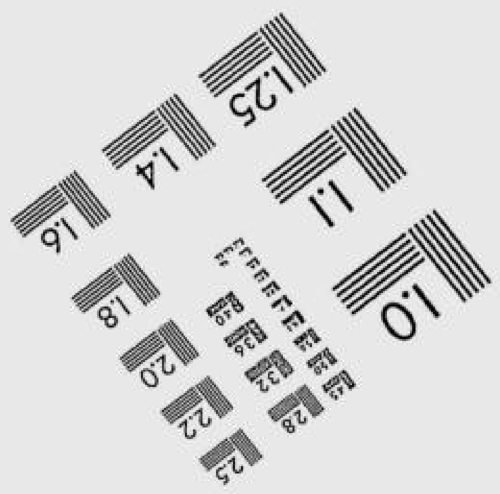
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